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DAILY REPORT

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AREA VICE PRESIDENTS MEET IN SAN JOSE

PA171837 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Participating in the opening session of a meeting of area vice presidents yesterday, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez maintained that emphasis must be placed on the need to reorganize the Central American integration process. He stressed that the efforts of the 1950s and 1960s resulted in modest industrial development which involved the complete Central American market.

Gutierrez stated that it is necessary to envision a new structure that will find the acceptance and organizational ties needed by the previous effort. He also said that the organization must have greater representation [representatividad] and that integration must be extended to all areas of common interest to Central Americans. He also suggested the creation of legal mechanisms to settle conflicts among individuals and corporations, as well as state agencies.

According to Gutierrez, emphasis must be placed on the dialogue started with the EEC, because this organization will help the region accomplish its integration.

For his part, Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount praised President Monge's initiative, the convocation of this meeting, which is a historic landmark. He said that the efforts of the 1960s -- which resulted in important structures and mechanisms but which were not accompanied by measures that guaranteed their success -- must not be criticized. He added that now the efforts for Central American integration must lead to an improvement in the standard of living of these nations in order to give Central Americans the enjoyment of things that were always denied them.

The Salvadoran vice president said that the year 2000 must not find us in that situation. For this reason we must have imagination and determination to create new plans for tomorrow, but early, he remarked. Furthermore, the Salvadoran leader said that talent, imagination, and boldness will be required in order to rescue the CACM. He conceded that the meeting inaugurated yesterday is only the beginning of a process that seeks, among other things, to improve the standard of living of Central Americans, which is not the same as improving the wealth of the traditional industrialists. If Nicaragua agrees with this and is willing to accept its obligations, I do not see why they cannot be invited in the future, he concluded.

In addition, Honduran Vice President Jaime Rosenthal said that Nicaragua is the main debtor of the Central American countries. He noted that the possibilities for financing to allow Nicaragua to meet its obligations are being analyzed, because the idea is not to eliminate Nicaragua from an integration process. These resources could come from the United States or international institutions, Rosenthal added. He stated that a reorganization of the CACM must put aside the emphasis on the exchange of imported products with a low aggregate value. In fact, a real exchange of what Central America produces must be emphasized, and economies should be directed at exporting agricultural products and producing raw materials. Rosenthal said that the strengthening of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration continues, although the problem lies in the clearing house, because there are debts that are not paid due to a lack of foreign exchange.

Meeting Concludes

PA181758 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The meeting of vice presidents of the Central American area ended yesterday. This meeting was held in an effort to consolidate the social and economic policies of the region. Those who participated in the meeting were Roberto Carpio Nicole of Guatemala; Rodolfo Castillo Claramount of El Salvador; Jaime Rosenthal of Honduras; and Armando Arauz and Jorge Manuel Dengo of Costa Rica.

The vice presidents confirmed the decision of their governments to sign the Contadora document for peace and cooperation in Central America on 6 June, certain that this will be an essential step in the pacification of the region and the solution of the problems which are afflicting it.

One of the most important decisions made by the vice presidents concerns the joint session they want to hold with sources of foreign financing, so that the debt of the Central American countries may receive common treatment with better terms than those given to Latin American countries in better economic situations.

In addition, they decided to create and implement programs for economic and social reorganization, individually and in accordance with the specific goals of each country, but bearing in mind their possible effect on the region.

They also agreed to re-establish the Central American economic integration project -- started in 1960 -- as soon as possible. This step will be taken to readjust the project more realistically so that it will respond to the economic and social needs of the area. They also agreed to continue improving the tariff reform and the systems to give incentives to investments giving the [word indistinct] the pertinent guarantees and priorities, as well as that which concerns the export of nontraditional products.

Attention will be given to aspects that link the countries, such as electrical power networks, the creation of development programs that include the participation of two or more countries education, and other matters.

In addition, the vice presidents of the area agreed that any negotiation or joint use of financing from and cooperation with international financial organizations must be channelled through the financial organization of the Central American integration system and through other sources of economic cooperation.

They agreed to gradually reduce existing restrictions on commercial transactions and interregional payments, observing the principle of Central American preference.

They also discussed and defended policies [words indistinct] for the marketing of basic products for the economies of Central American countries and the adjustment of measures for the production and marketing of certain strategic goods.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rican vice president said that it is possible that international financial organizations may be asked for approximately $300 million in aid to implement these reactivation policies for the region.

He also said that Nicaragua was not included in the meeting of area vice presidents because international organizations do not permit an open dialogue with Nicaragua. Vice President Arauz said:

[Begin recording] We, President Monge and I, have been asked why we did not invite the Nicaraguan vice president. However, Monge's initiative involves support for relations with international organizations [words indistinct] political, Central American, and North American that do not permit an open and (?constructive) dialogue with Nicaragua for the time being. [Words indistinct] but the person who should respond to it is me, and not President Monge. The president had thought of forming a kind of club of democratic Central American countries. [end recording]

However, when asked why these organizations did not want an open dialogue with Nicaragua, the vice president said curiously that he had said no such a thing.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

Political Youth Demonstrate

PY190201 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0123 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM) -- The demonstration carried out by the Movement of Political Youth (Mojupo) and the Federation of Argentine-Arab Organizations repudiating the recent U.S. attack against Libya concluded tonight with the stoning of the U.S. Embassy and Ambassador Frank Ortiz' residence and a clash between the police and demonstrators.

The following persons participated in the demonstration: Pablo Unamuno for the Peronist Youth, Alejandro Barthe for the Intransigent Youth, Eduardo Sigal for the Juvenile Communist Federation, Eduardo Lazara for the Authentic Socialist Youth, Gabriel Monserrat for the Christian Democratic Youth, and Maria Rinaldi for the Movement to Socialism Youth. Angel Trinidad for the Malvinas Vetarns Center and Antonio Daud for the Federation of Arab Organizations also participated. The latter organization submitted a note to the U.S. Embassy expressing its most energetic protest against the attack on Libya.

'Commando' Issues Threats

PY182057 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2026 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (DYN) -- The police today strengthened security measures around the U.S. Embassy, residences of U.S. diplomats, and the premises of U.S. enterprises and institutions after a self-styled "Independence Commando" made telephone threats and sent notes to the media announcing terrorist acts in reprisal for the attack on Libya. This afternoon experts from the bomb squad carried out a thorough search at the Lincoln Cultural Library, and Information Center of the U.S. Embassy on 900 Florida Street in downtown Buenos Aires. The "Independence Commando" made a phone call warning of a bomb. The phone call was received by local and foreign press agencies, but no bomb was found.

Later, copies of "Communique No. 2" of the group sere sent to the media. In the note the group warned that "from now on, every U.S. delegation, enterprise, or citizen will be considered an enemy who deserves the corresponding treatment: death." The note, which is typewritten, goes on to point out that "(U.S. President Ronald) Reagan and the United States proved to be enemies of our fatherland, with British aid, during the heroic war over the Malvinas. Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi and Libya, however, supported us like a friendly nation in the recovery of our sovereignty." The notes ends by stating: "The moment has come to defend those who help and destroy those who attack us."

Cultural Center Evacuated

PY181600 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (NA) -- The U.S. Cultural Center located in downtown Buenos Aires was evacuated just before noon today following an anonymous telephoned bomb threat. The security personnel at the Abraham Lincoln Center immediately evacuated the offices and especially the library.

The threat is linked to the statements of various political organizations over the last few days against the U.S. raid ordered by President Ronald Reagan against Libyan military and civilian targets. Access to the Lincoln Center is being strictly controlled by security officers, who are checking bags and briefcases and asking for identification cards.

FALKLANDS WAR VETERANS ON JOINT U.S. EXERCISES

PY141524 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1646 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Mar del Plata, 13 Apr (TELAM) -- The Malvinas War Veterans Center here has rejected the joint exercises of the Argentine and U.S. Navies, recalling that the United States was an ally of the United Kingdom during the South Atlantic conflict. The rejection added that Argentina should participate in exercises with only friendly countries, as most of the Latin American countries have proven to be.

In a document the veterans reported that, as a result of a recent visit to our country by General John Galvin, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, the joint exercises with the Pentagon forces will be carried out through 18 April. General Galvin is also currently conducting the joint exercises of the U.S. and Honduran Armies on the border with Nicaragua, the document reports.

It states that eight officers from the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as Air Force and Navy personnel stationed around the Panama Canal, will participate. The document concludes by pointing out that the Malvinas veterans cannot forget that the Army with whom the exercises are about to be carried out, is the same one that 4 years ago allied itself with the United Kingdom to fight against us.

ALLEGED PRESSURE ON ALFONSIN DENIED BY EMBASSY

PY151531 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1352 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA) -- The U.S. Embassy today officially denied foreign press reports that U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz has reportedly pressured President Raul Alfonsin to fire Foreign Minister Dante Caputo because of his position on the Central American conflict. An official spokesman of the U.S. Embassy, who was questioned by NA on this issue, has described as "unreal" the reports that Ortiz "objects to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo's support for the Contadora Group peace proposal for Central America" published in the latest issue of NEWSWEEK. The spokesman also said that so far no meeting has been "scheduled" between Dante Caputo and Ortiz.

Sources at the Argentine Foreign Ministry have described the press reports as "ridiculous" and without basis. The press reports appeared at a time when a secret cable from the U.S. Embassy in Argentina on the visit of U.S. legislators headed by Thomas O'Neill was released in the United States. According to Democratic legislators, the U.S. ambassador in Argentina "interfered" in the legislators' contacts with the Argentine Government regarding the Central American crisis.

LA PRENSA Column

PY150220 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Apr 86 p 1, 4

[By J. Iglesias Rouco]

[Text] The pocket scandal, for lack of a better name, which has just taken place in the United States and Argentina as a result of the recent visit to Buenos Aires by the U.S. Democratic legislators headed by the controversial Marty Russo and "Tip" O'Neill, and U.S. Ambassador Ortiz' participation in the visit do not favor the Alfonsin government, as some leftist groups of Alfonsin's party believe.

First of all, and although the dignified WASHINGTON POST does not usually need any help from abroad to reveal information, there is well-founded suspicion that the "secret" report recently published by that newspaper about details of the meeting held by Ortiz and the Democratic congressmen with President Alfonsin was not issued by the State Department alone. For example, just before the POST article appeared, leftist sectors of the Argentine Government, of the Alfonsin party, conveyed to local journalists a good part of the meeting under the condition that it not be released "for the time being."

Moreover, after THE WASHINGTON POST published the information, our Foreign Ministry, in an unofficial declaration, decided to quickly confirm all the details of that incident, even those that were still unclear, in an action which was totally unnecessary. It was even a bit unorthodox from the diplomatic point of view because, as the Foreign Ministry said, the idea was "not to intervene" in U.S. internal affairs. And if that was not enough, it still remains to be clarified what made the government at its highest level decide to agree or encourage the filming of a meeting with the U.S. congressmen, which at this stage of events was already becoming quite stormy.

Everything seems to indicate that the government collaborated enthusiastically with several of the Democratic legislators in promoting this regrettable episode, perhaps not only after but also before that episode occurred. At least this is the only impression, given the lack of further details, that any impartial observer can form from what is known so far. If this is the case, it means that the meeting in the presidential office was not really a spontaneous confrontation that just got out of control of the participants, including the "passive" Argentine participants, but rather a set-up or something that looks very much like a set-up. In this case, the sense of responsibility of our government would be seriously compromised.

Second, and this is perhaps the most important aspect of the "affair," is that Buenos Aires has nothing to gain from the uncomfortable situation into which Ortiz and President Reagan were placed. It is true that just before this affair, the U.S. ambassador was ordered by his superiors to convey to the Government Palace through different channels the White House's profound displeasure over Caputo's latest proposals in relation to the Central American conflict. It is also true that:

1. Ortiz and his superiors have so far been among the foreign diplomats and governments (and I would dare say even among quite a few Argentines) who are firm supporters of Alfonsin and his government. In this regard, we should recall the efforts by Ortiz and his government to grant Argentina "bridge" loans, like the one granted in 1984 under a very difficult situation in Argentina. The United States had a very broad understanding of the Argentine position regarding Central America and the Malvinas, which on occasion, tested the limits of tolerance of the Reagan administration.

During the stage of transition to democracy in Peru, Ortiz, then U.S. ambassador there, and Washington tried to act not only as mere observers of that country's various ideological positions but also as defenders of the system. Sometimes they cannot avoid the professional and political risks involved, especially within administrations and political societies which are so feudal and diverse as those in Latin America.

2. The possibilities that the Democrats might win in the next U.S. elections are quite remote, even though a large part of Reagan's Central American policy may not be very successful and the fact that certain Latin American countries are playing the favorite game of Washington's "liberals," which is very well known and consists of pushing the Vietnam "syndrome," that is playing on the alleged fear of the U.S. electorate in that the United States will become involved in a war without end and which, in the Latin American sphere, could possibly feed a fire against the United States. This favorite game was exhausted in 1983 when Grenada was invaded and even more exhausted because of the new awareness that the Americans and West Europeans are acquiring about their technological and cultural revolution, which has quieted fears about the left and the USSR and about the danger that subversion and the terrorist states (Libya, for example, which is today allied with the Sandinists) have for their immediate future.

Thus, the only factor that could possibly justify this visible "entente" -- so as not to call it complicity -- between Alfonsinism and the Democratic Party's "liberals," based on the fact that they might have access to the White House fairly soon, is very weak. And, all of this without taking into account another factor: Among today's Democrats, there are many who, as during the Kennedy and Johnson tenures, support a strategic re-evaluation of the very "conservative" -- and revolutionary -- world of Reagan and Bush. They are willing to face the East and its subversive instruments in the Third World in general, especially in Latin America. The Democrats' tradition regarding the handling of this type of action is eloquent. We must recall Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs, which the founder of the Alliance for Progress inherited from Eisenhower; Johnson and the escalation in Vietnam; and even "leftist" Carter and the Iran incident. And it must be recalled that no one in the United States, not even the "liberals," can change a foreign policy of very accomplished events like the policy that has been developed over the past 5 years by the Republican administration.

Thus, one must ask oneself what type of advantage can Argentina obtain from these small and puny punches that the Democrats throw at the Republicans, from objectives that barely have an electoral tint, such as the little scandal in the Casa Rosada, which was happily applauded by our left.

In our opinion: none. And, even worse: If we add this "affair" to the previous one, the already very impatient Washington reaction to Buenos Aires' actions regarding the Contadora Group, its financial (and also of the other type) support to the Sandinists and Managua's refusal to accept the peace structure of its own supporters-mediators, then it is clear that Argentina has only achieved a deterioration of its position. Could it be, as our left is announcing, that in the end Washington will replace Ortiz, something that is not quite certain yet (although it is feasible that Alfonsinism's participation in this matter had that motive). But what ambassador will Washington send to Buenos Aires? Mr Ortega? And who, apart from the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve Board, is in a position to bail us out?

We very much fear that Mr. Alfonsin's government is today making the same reckonings regarding the United States that Mr. Mitterrand's France made in 1983. These have now been found, with the victory of the French right, to have been very mistaken.

Despite the financial crisis, the world is not taking the course desired by the Casa Rosada. This must be because the world, especially the Western "north," is very stupid in rejecting its wise advice. Undoubtedly the Vatican, the EEC, the U.S. Republicans, the campesinos, the bankers, and even the cavalry officers that yesterday organized a barbecue in "honor and solidarity" with Major Julio Contreras, who has been punished for his well-known Concordia speech and who is now about to go into "obligatory" retirement, the equivalent, in the garrisons, of Mr Sourrouille's "obligatory" savings, are also stupid. Yes, the world is on the wrong road, with the exception of 50 Balcarce Street [the Casa Rosada]. If our very good government wants to save it, why does it not observe the world in a better fashion?

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS INVITES ALFONSIN FOR SUMMIT

PY190218 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Interview with Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin by unidentified reporters on 19 April at the Olivos presidential residence in Buenos Aires -- recorded]

[Text] [Arias] We believe that the presence of prestigious countries like Argentina, and of prestigious men, like President Raul Alfonsin, is vital, because no one can better view Latin American or Central American problems than Central Americans or Latin Americans themselves. In the second place, I want to say that the purpose of my visit is to extend a personal invitation to President Alfonsin to attend the inaugural ceremony along with the presidents of the Contadora Group. The purpose of my tour is to visit the countries that make up the Contadora Support Group. We respect and admire President Alfonsin and this marvelous country, and his presence at the inaugural ceremony will not only signify solidarity with Costa Rica but also with efforts that all of us are making to achieve peace, and to achieve a solution to Central American problems in a civilized manner through dialogue and negotiations.

[Question] Will the presence of Latin American presidents, among whom will probably be President Alfonsin, at your inaugural on 8 May be a proper time to hold a Latin American presidential summit?

[Arias] Yes, although it will not be anything formal. But yes, we will of course take advantage of the opportunity to do so. I believe that Costa Rica enjoys a well-known democratic tradition so as to be able to attract the majority of Latin American presidents. Moreover, without the presence of President Alfonsin we would really be at a disadvantage.

[Question] It is a commitment then?

[Alfonsin] Yes, of course. I will be pleased to do so.

[Question] Sir, the Nicaraguan issue, that hot border, that...

[Alfonsin, interrupting] It is not hot anymore.

[Question] No, it is not. What is the latest you can tell us in this regard?

[Arias] Well, we are very hopeful and optimistic that the Contadora act will be signed on 6 June. As you know, in the last foreign ministers meeting, during which Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo played a dominant role, it was established that the final date [to sign the Contadora act] would be 6 June.

We are truly hopeful that all Central American countries will sign the Contadora Act. But more important than signing the act itself, is the fulfillment of what is established in this act because only in this way can we be sure that there will be peace in Central America. Without peace we will be unable to achieve economic development, which is ultimately the only issue about which Central Americans should be concerned.

Arias Departs for Uruguay

PY192300 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1531 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM) -- Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez, who this morning left Argentina for Uruguay after a 2-day visit, warned that peace in Central America is in danger. He also invited President Raul Alfonsin to his presidential inauguration. Arias said that the future of Central America will be decided in the next 2 months. We will see if reason prevails over war and violence. This is why I am satisfied that President Alfonsin has accepted my invitation to attend my presidential inauguration on 8 May in Costa Rica, he said.

Arias Sanchez was seen off at the Aeroparque Metroplitan Airport by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, other Foreign Ministry officials, Costa Rican Ambassador to Argentina Roberto Morales Varie, and other Costa Rican Embassy officials. The Costa Rican president-elect expressed satisfaction with his short visit to Argentina and said that he had the opportunity to exchange opinions about the future of Central America, where Argentina has played a very important role as a member of the Contadora support group. Regarding the Contadora peace act, Arias Sanchez said: I believe that when I assume power on 8 May in my country, it will be a good opportunity for all the other Latin American presidents to try to overcome the obstacles that are preventing the peace act's being signed.

FEDERAL PARTY LEADER ACCEPTS GOVERNMENT POST

PY210212 Buenos Aires TIEMPO ARGENTINO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 7

[Excerpts] Francisco Manrique, head of the Federal Party, has accepted the position of state secretary of National and International Tourism and government adviser on social questions. He made this announcement at a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin on 18 April.

The number of leaders from parties other than the UCR [Radical Civic Union] who hold positions in the Alfonsin administration has thus been increased. Manrique from the Federal Party now joins Hector Polino from the Socialist Confederation and Roberto Lavagna from the Peronist Party as collaborator with the present administration.

In addition to being the new state secretary of National and International Tourism, Manrique will advise President Alfonsin on social matters.

BRIEFS

GDP DROP REPORTED -- (NA-DYN) -- Argentina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dropped 4.4 percent in 1985, compared to 1984, the Central Bank reported last night. Last quarter '85 GDP figures were 3.7 percent below '84 statistics. 1985 industrial activity declined 10.4 percent, agriculture 3.4 percent and business 7.6 percent, according to the report. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Apr 86 p 3 PY]

BEDREGAL ON ALTERNATIVES IN OCEAN ACCESS PROBLEMS

PY171257 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has said that the government is studying new ways to find a positive solution to the Bolivian maritime conflict with Chile. He said that this is an important mission and that specific statements regarding this issue will be known in the next few hours.

[Begin Bedregal recording] The important thing is that right now we are compiling all the information, documents, and studies of the last few years. We have found valid positions. We are also organizing a council of international advisers [words indistinct] from all our national political groups in order to study, update, and renew all these documents, in order to make specific proposals.

Regarding our relations with Chile, I believe there is currently great flexibility regarding the [words indistinct] aspect and the diplomatic protection that our countrymen in Chile deserve. For some years they received (?humiliating) treatment. We also have problems in the fields of customs duties and railway transportation, but these are being handled capably by our consul in Santiago. Therefore, from this point of view we have a clear view of the situation, and we trust that in this short time we have established solid principles based on the irrevocable will of our country to recover a sovereign outlet to the sea [words indistinct] (?in keeping) with our doctrine and priority of our foreign (?and) political policy. [end recording]

Bedregal then said that this is no new strategy, because Bolivia has always been seeking solutions favorable to our country regarding problems with Chile. This is the explanation given by Bedregal:

[Begin recording] [Bedregal] Nothing new has been proposed yet.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this part of a new strategy, or has a new strategy been proposed?

[Bedregal] No, there is no new strategy. This country has always had the strategy of returning to the sea. The problems regarding methods of cooperation, in keeping with our current times, are now more easily solved, allowing us to achieve more significant progress in this regard. [end recording]

The foreign minister reported that within the next few hours he will leave for PRC at the invitation of that country.

Ecuador Pledges Support

PY161525 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry has reported that the Ecuadoran Government will continue to support Bolivia's request for a fair solution to its maritime problem. In a message dated 25 March and addressed to Andean Parliament President Julio Garret Ayllon, Ecuador expressed its support for the claims of the noble Bolivian people, according to [words indistinct] of Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran. This message is a result of a decision the Andean Parliament adopted during its fifth period of sessions last December in La Paz. On that occasion the Parliament decided to support Bolivia's aspiration for a direct and sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS CANCELS LA PAZ VISIT

PY210207 Paris AFP in Spanish 0009 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 20 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias, who was to arrive in this capital to meet with President Victor Paz Estenssoro, has canceled his visit, according to an official announcement. When the preparations for the protocol ceremonies at the airport had been completed, the Press Secretariat of the Foreign Ministry announced that the Costa Rican president-elect had canceled his visit to La Paz. Arias is touring several Latin American countries and was expected to visit La Paz before going to Lima. He has now canceled his stopover in La Paz and will travel directly to Lima, according to the official announcement.

FINANCE MINISTER ON FOREIGN CREDIT PROSPECTS

PY152237 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The World Bank will grant Bolivia a $55-million credit to be invested in Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB], the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol], the National Railway Enterprise [ENFE], and industry and farming sectors. This was reported by Finance Minister Juan Cariaga who said the following during a press conference:

[Cariaga] "On 11 April the World Bank approved a $55-million credit for the recovery of the main Bolivian industries. The credit will be mostly used for the recovery of YPFB, Comibol, and ENFE, as well as our industrial and farming sectors."

As is known, Cariaga has just returned from Washington where he went for several negotiations, and to obtain this credit. The minister has also requested the IMF to keep Bolivia on its agenda in order to grant it a stand-by credit at its next meeting on 12 May. Cariaga recalled that the IMF had set the approval of the national budget and the tax reform plan as a condition for this.

[Cariaga] "I asked the IMF to postpone their demands for the approval of these two measures until the date when its directorate will consider a stand-by credit to Bolivia."

He once more stressed the importance of the approval of the national budget and the tax reform, because they will mean future income to help meet the needs of the state. He warned about the consequences that the disapproval of these measures would bring, and he gave the amounts of the credits Bolivia would lose.

[Cariaga] "First, we would lose a stand-by credit worth 50 million SDR's [Special Drawing Rights], or $55 million. Second, it would prevent Bolivia from obtaining a compensation credit equivalent to $50 million. Third, it would prevent Bolivia from obtaining an untied structural adjustment credit worth $20 million."

Cariaga added that the disbursement of other credits could be interrupted if the budget and the tax reform are not approved.

[Cariaga] "It could deprive the country of approximately $250 million in aid from multilateral and bilateral institutions. Of these $250 million, $153 million will come from multilateral organizations like the World Bank, the IDB, the Andean Development Corporation, and others, while $93 million will come from bilateral development organizations of friendly countries in America and Europe. These amounts could be increased by 50 million [currency unit indistinct] if the two measures are approved and an agreement is reached with the IMF.

"I wish to say that otherwise the country would lose the possibility of renegotiating about $1 billion of its bilateral debt with the Paris Club, that is, the debt we have with the friendly countries and its development organizations. It would also prevent Bolivia from receiving aid from these countries."

Minister Cariaga said that Bolivia may also lose its inclusion in the Baker Plan, which had selected our country as one of its beneficiaries. In conclusion, after reporting that the various U.S. financial sectors have been receptive to our national economic recovery plan, he made an appeal to the Bolivian people to understand our real situation, explaining that this is not a government problem but rather a problem of the citizens. He said that the only way out from our current stagnation is to reach an agreement with the IMF.

MINISTER LEAVES FOR ANDREAN GROUP MEETING

PY171828 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Integration Minister Fernando Caceres today leaves for Panama to attend the Andean Group meeting in Panama City. The meeting agenda includes three specific subjects, and possibly a fourth. They are: customs fees and taxes, clauses on most favored nations, preferential treatment for Bolivia, and probably a protocol to modify the Cartagena Accord.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO PERU, COLOMBIA -- The Bolivian Senate has approved the designation of Nuflo Chavez Ortiz and Enrique Riveros-Tejada as Bolivian ambassadors to Peru and Colombia, respectively. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Apr 86 p 4 PY]

INFLATION RATE -- La Paz, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said here today that Bolivia's inflation rate has remained at zero for the 10th consecutive week. He explained that inflation was curbed by the economic measures enacted on 29 August 1985. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0346 GMT 3 Apr 86 PY]

INFANT MORTALITY RATE -- Marlene de Caton, National director responsible for minors, of the National Board for solidarity and social development has reported that the Bolivian infant mortality rate is the highest in Latin America, with 179,000 per thousand [as heard], throughout the nation. This report was released a few hours ago during the dedication of the Week of the Bolivian Child, under the following slogan: The Child Is Today, Never Tomorrow. Mrs Caton went on to say that the figure is 278 children per thousand among Quechua-speaking people and 239 per thousand among the Aymara-speaking population. She added that 47 percent of Bolivian children under 6 years of age are suffering from hunger. [Excerpt] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr PY]

SARNEY DISCUSSES SUCCESSES OF CRUZADO PLAN

PY150330 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2331 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by President Jose Sarney; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening fellow Brazilians: I am here to talk about numbers. We are a great family. I am here to talk about the first month of the Cruzado Plan, to make an evaluation. The plan has been a success. It has achieved its objectives and has changed Brazil. But this result was possible because of the support of the Brazilian people, of this great Brazilian people. From the very moment the Brazilian people accepted their appointment as presidential inspectors, they assured the success of this program.

Fellow Brazilians: I waited until today to address the nation because I lacked the official IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] figures. I received this information only last Saturday. I wanted to make this announcement personally because it is unprecedented for a Brazilian president to make such an announcement. I hereby inform you of something of which we are all well-aware: We did not have inflation in March. What is more, we had deflation; that is, the cost of living of workers, of all Brazilian people, fell 1.48 percent, while the cost of food experienced an even sharper decline: minus 5 percent [as heard].

You who had your salaries depressed by 15 percent every month; you have experienced an increase in your purchasing power. You, who every week before the enforcement of the Cruzado Plan purchased less and paid more, now know that you have a strong currency and that the family basket is fuller because of the end of inflation and a fall of food prices.

We are now experiencing new times in our fatherland. This country will never again experience the differences that were destroying us. We were a divided house. But a divided house does not prosper. So far this year employment has increased 2.97 percent. Retail sales increased in March by 10 percent, while exports experienced a 34-percent increase. This resulted in a surplus of $665 million. Industry increased by 12 percent. To give an example, the steel industry increased by 10 percent. A significant example is the growth recorded of the electric power sector, which grew by 9 percent in relation to February. These figures show that the Cruzado Plan did not cause a fall in the economy of any national sector. Supply is normal, sales are expanding.

Fellow Brazilians: All of us pay taxes. When one purchases 1 kg of rice or meat, or anything for that matter, he pays part of the price as taxes. These taxes are used to support public services. This money cannot be stolen, mutilated, or misused at any government level, either at the state, municipal, or federal level. Everyone knows that the money of the people must be well spent. It is with this thought that we have supermarket inspectors; presidential housing inspectors; school inspectors; social welfare inspectors; that is, inspectors of everything in Brazilian society.

We are doing our best in public administration. The Brazilian people are well aware that this government is not on a joyride. If we increase prices in any sector, who will pay them? It will certainly be the people. This is why there is a freeze on prices. If costs increase, prices have to increase too. Thus, with your support, I cannot compromise, retreat, or yield in my position.

We are now involved in a process aimed at changing those mentalities that were contaminated by inflation. We were steadily heading along the path of complete paralyzation of the productive sectors by extinguishing the market economy and ruining private enterprise, which is the only force able to keep it alive.

Fellow Brazilians: Brazil is ready to make its great take off, a definitive takeoff by awakening a hardworking mentality, by awakening the mentality of a serious country and its creativity. No longer are we a country that attracts the world's attention only because of the picturesque soccer and Mardi Gras festivities, because of the suffering of the Indians and the death squads. We have definitely turned this page of history forever.

We are the 8th most developed economy of the Western world, but we rank 57th in social development. In the social sector, we are ranked among the poorest African and Asian countries. This situation cannot continue. It is another terrible evil of our society that must be overcome. We will persist in developing social programs so that we may end hunger and poverty. The great challenge [words indistinct] economy is to create a humane and just society, in which misery does not threaten (?institutions) or development, the health of the economy, social justice, or political freedom.

This is the time for investments and productive work. All Brazilians are now invited to join this great endeavor and do everything they can for the country. No one can have doubts about Brazil anymore. Within a few years, Brazil will assume its proper place in the world because today it is taking a definitive step forward so as to be ready, completely ready, to fulfill its great destiny. This is the good news I wanted to give you tonight. Thank you very much.

LE MONDE Interview

PM081404 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Apr 86 pp 1,30

[Charles Vanhecke dispatch: "Brazil Under Shock Treatment"]

[Text] Brasilia -- "Brazil had become ungovernable," Jose Sarney told us. The shock treatment launched on 28 February had been studied for several months. It was adopted because the economy "could no longer be controlled." The disease which was undermining the country was general index-linking. "When I took office as president I was convinced that index-linking had reached an intolerable level and that it should be abandoned. But at that time we were not politically capable of making such a decision."

The Brazilian president gave various answers to the questions asked on the Cruzado Plan (Footnote: The Cruzado Plan, adopted on 28 February and named for the new currency which replaced the cruzeiro, is intended to eradicate inflation which in February was still galloping at an annual rate of 225 percent), on the government's decision to give priority to the poor, on censorship, and on Central America and Cuba.

It is obvious that he does not really like talking about foreign policy -- a sphere which he readily leaves to the professionals. On the other hand he is verbose about social policy. It is true that after 21 years of military regime it has become the "main priority." It is also a good way for the president to make people forget the right-wing label which his former opponents rather misleadingly gave to him.

Thus Brazil now has zero inflation. Indeed it is less than zero because, according to official estimates, the inflation rate for March should be minus 2 percent. But will the government be able to hold the price freeze for long? Mr Sarney replied: "Yes, for a time...until we have changed the Brazilians' inflationist mentality." According to him there was a veritable "inflation culture": "a whole generation had grown accustomed to currency adjustments." It will now have to grow accustomed to price stability.

Mr Sarney expressed regret, in passing, about the attitude adopted by the political class and the trade unions in his country. Indeed what he wanted was a social pact and not shock treatment to control inflation. However the pact proved impossible. This was due to "lack of will on the part of possible partners," he said, and especially "lack of maturity" among Brazilian political and social "leaders."

Even before Argentina adopted the Austral Plan (Footnote: Economic recovery plan which consisted primarily of replacing the peso with a new currency -- the austral) last July, Mr Sarney sent Persio Arida, a technical expert from the planning secretariat, to Jerusalem to study the anti-inflation program. His conclusions are scarcely convincing. Then came the Argentine plan. "We waited for it to become clear," the Brazilian president said, and he explained: "There was no question of us submitting to the IMF solutions."

At the end of last year the efforts made in the budget sphere and those made to control the money supply seemed to Brasilia enough to reduce the inflation rate. However in January that rate hit a record level: more than 16 percent. The president then opted for the "unorthodox" shock treatment studied in secret by his economic team. He said that, contrary to what is happening in Argentina, there will be no recession.

"We have not detected any drop in production," he said. "All the indicators are normal." If activity were to drop the government would revive it by "public investment." That probably does not reassure foreign creditors anxious for Brasilia to tackle the structural causes of inflation and especially the public deficit. However, how can such a deficit be reduced without endangering state overexpansion? The public sector's financial requirements amount to almost 30 percent of the gross national product and are only partly covered by private savings. The state must therefore offer excessive interest rates to tap household economies to its benefit, and this makes the public debt worse. Since savings are inadequate, it prints more money.

When monetary adjustment ends, the public debt will probably be reduced. But this will not be enough in the eyes of some observers, who regret the fact that no effort is being announced in two essential spheres -- public deficit and the printing of money -- whereas in Argentina they have stopped printing money, and the public deficit has been reduced by two-thirds.

The Brazilian officials clearly did not want their plan to undermine growth. Mr Sarney promises that it will be maintained and is not announcing any spectacular measures to privatize the economy. He thinks the private sector has already resumed its place and that it is responsible for the 8-percent growth achieved last year. "On the other hand, in the days of authoritarianism," he said, "development was guaranteed by the expansion of the public sector." The president thinks there is a correlation between political freedom and economic freedom. This is one of his favorite subjects when making speeches.

Another favored subject is aid to the poor. "Brazil is the eighth biggest Western economic power," Mr Sarney said, "but some social indicators rank us with many African and Asian countries." Hence the importance of social investments in his eyes: They are now absorbing 10 percent of the gross national product. "We will devote up to 12 percent to them," he promised.

Programs to aid the poorest families began 5 months ago. They took the most diverse forms: distribution of milk (630,000 children received 1 liter per day; there will be 3 million such children by the end of the year); distribution of food parcels, and public works in the districts.

It is the community organizations, of which there are many in Brazil (church organizations or district associations), which receive and damage the state aid. Some 12,000 social mini-programs are now being implemented. The aim is to increase the number to 50,000 with the voluntary participation of 4 million Brazilians.

To those who walk of paternalism, the Brasilia officials reply that the emergency justifies these measures. "When somebody is dying of starvation you must first give him food." Agrarian reform is part of the medium-term and long-term plans intended to eradicate famine or chronic malnourishment. But has the government not fallen behind in its plan" Mr Sarney said so, which is not surprising, but he went further: "The agrarian reform is my pigeon," he said. "When I became president there was no plan. It was I who launched it, and I will respect the objectives laid down." He specified that "400,000 hectares have already been expropriated" and that he has settled the most serious conflicts. However he admitted that there is a trap: lack of human resources. Men are needed to implement the agrarian reform. And it takes time to train them.

On the other hand it is pointless to ask Mr Sarney what he thinks of Mr Reagan's policy in Nicaragua. He prefers to say nothing either about the character of the Sandinist regime or the activity of the contras. He merely reaffirmed his government's preference for "negotiated solutions" for which nobody can criticize him. Nonetheless, he admitted that Brazil has never been very diplomatically active in the region and that, if it joined the Contadora Group, it would not be of much service to it. He was equally cautious about the restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba -- one of the measures announced at the beginning of the "New Republic" but not yet adopted. Mr Sarney is not expressly saying that these relations will be restored, but he is suggesting that. The matter is following its course without major obstacles. "The norm for a big country like ours is to have diplomatic relations."

Does the Brazilian president really find it so difficult to give his verdict on major international issues? That would be too hasty a judgement, and he has already proven many forecasts wrong. The man who was said to be indecisive, ignorant about major problems, and timid with regard to the reforms to be introduced has demonstrated in the space of 1 year his political sensitivity and his ability to decide. Zero inflation has brought him a popularity which no Brazilian president has enjoyed since Juscelino Kubitschek, who was head of state between 1956 and 1961.

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS COMMENTS ON CONTADORA

PY170350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0258 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Apr (EFE) -- Oscar Arias Sanchez, president-elect of Costa Rica, started in Brasilia today a tour of the four member-countries of the Contadora Support Group in an effort to expand the support base for the Contadora Group's peace efforts. In the statements to the media, Arias criticized the White House attempts to get economic aid for the Nicaraguan contras. However, he also criticized Cuba and the Soviet Union for supporting subversive movements. "We do not believe in war as a solution to the Central American problem," Arias said just before meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney, whom he invited to visit San Jose in May for his presidential inauguration. Arias today reiterated Costa Rica's neutral position regarding the East-West confrontation, but he explained that his country favors Western interests.

Arias agreed with the Brazilian position favoring the expansion of the Contadora Group which "must not be a closed and exclusive group," according to his words. He also criticized the Santinists for not having complied with their commitments to establish a democratic and pluralistic regime in Nicaragua and expressed his wish that once the Contadora charter is signed, the Managua administration will open a dialogue with the opposition. Arias announced that his government will not resume relations with Cuba because "I believe that the reasons for having broken them are still valid," he said. Arias Sanchez will travel on an official visit to Buenos Aires tomorrow and then to go Montevideo and Lima.

PT MEMBERS ATTACK BANK TO GET FUNDS FOR NICARAGUA

PY122251 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1320 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 12 Apr (EFE) — Five members of the Trotskyist Brazilian Workers Party (PT) were arrested in the city of Salvador when they attempted to rob a bank, claiming that they wanted to "expropriate" funds for Nicaragua. The newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE today reports on the event which occurred last Fridan in a Banco do Brasil Branch office in Salvador, the capital city of Bahia state, 4,052 km east of Brasilia. Weliton Pinto Diogenes, Cicero Araujo, Marcos Wilson, Telson Crecencio, and Jose Fernandez participated in the attempted armed assault on the Banco do Brasil branch office. After their arrest, they claimed to be PT members, stating that they intended to "expropriate" funds for the Nicaraguan revolution. After the robbery was reported by a postman, the police immediately surrounded the downtown site. The criminals resisted the siege, firing machine guns, the newspaper adds. Pinto and Araujo were prefect candidates in the November 1985 elections. The three other people involved are regional PT leaders. Meanwhile, it was reported today in Londrina, in southern Brazil, that Brazilian technicians -- sponsored by the United Nations -- will cooperate with Nicaragua in the cultivation of soybeans to guarantee the supply of vegetable oil, thus allowing the Sandinist Government to save $25 million in future soybean oil imports.

Communist Group Cited

PY191621 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] The five PT members who tried to hold up a Banco do Brasil branch in Salvador are also members of the Brazilian Revolutionary Communist Party [PCBR], a radical faction that took part in the armed struggle in Brazil in the 1970's. This statement is part of Jari Jose Evangelista's confession to the Bahia police. Evangelista, one of the arrested PT members, said that he belongs to a 'action command' of the PCBR which has been operating "for quite sometime." He mentioned the Banco do Brasil branch in Cachoeira, Bahia, which was held up last year. Four of the five PT members who participated in last week's attempted holdup of the Salvador campus bank branch also participated in the Cachoeira holdup. Yesterday Justice Minister Paulo Brossard said that in view of the confession, the National Security Law might be enforced in this case.

SODRE, GHANAIAN COUNTERPART DISCUSS NOBISTOR CASE

PY111645 Paris AFP in Spanish 0215 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 10 Apr (AFP) — Brazil has reported that the Argentine crewmen and the U.S. mercenaries who have been detained in Rio de Janeiro for smuggling weapons to Ghana will be tried in accordance with Brazilian laws.

Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre gave this information to Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah, with whom he met for 40 minutes.

The Argentine tugboat "Nobistor" was captured in Brazilian waters carrying 6 tons of weapons and ammunition destined for Ghana. Ten Argentine crewmen, including the commander, and eight U.S. mercenaries were captured aboard the "Nobistor." The mercenaries were going to participate in a coup attempt against the regime of Captain Jerry Rawlings financed by Ghanaian opposition leaders living in the United States. Asamoah asked Sodre to keep Ghana informed of the investigations and the consequent judicial action.

The investigations are about to conclude, and should the contraband be confirmed, the detainees will be placed at the disposal of the Brazilian courts, Itamaraty spokesman Ruy Noguerira explained. Noguerira also refuted the rumor that the Ghanaian foreign minister has requested the extradition of the U.S. mercenaries. He added that there is no basis for extradition, because the crime was committed in Brazil.

SOVIET COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETING ENDS

PY210202 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 86 p 22

[Text] On the decline for the past 5 years, Brazilian-Soviet commercial relations will henceforth be expanded with the sales of licenses and technologies from both sides, the creation of joint enterprises and joint ventures, [preceding two words in English] industrial cooperation, and large projects, as well as joint export and import operations in third country markets. The Soviet Union and Brazil discussed these proposals during a 4-day meeting of members of the Intergovernmental Commission for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. The Brazilian delegation was headed by Paulo Tarso Flexa, and the Soviet delegation by Aleksey Manzhuolo.

The Brazilian and Soviet authorities expect to conclude the negotiatons to implement the proposals in the next 6 months. One of the proposals includes the export of orange juice to the Soviet Union, which in turns wants to build a plant to manufacture utility vehicles for export in Brazil. This Soviet proposal will be difficult to implement, but Soviet participation in a project to irrigate 43,000 hectares in the state of Pernambuco is almost certain. As a result of conversations with the Soviet delegation, in which several businessmen participated, Brazil will export more metallurgical products. The businessmen feel that the participation of the private sector is fundamental to the Brazilian Development process.

The delegation discusses a long-term program of commercial, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, including a list of goods that can be reciprocally traded, such as machinery, heavy equipment, textiles, and minerals. Commercial trade between the two countries amounted to $500 million last year, which Itamaraty considers quite low given the capacity of the two economies. In 1983, the value of bilateral trade was $800 million. The commission took notice of the progress in negotiations between the Vale do Rio Doce company and the Itakhpromexport for the installation of plants for the production of cast iron and manganese-iron. It also discussed possible cooperation in the area of refractory bauxite and processing of copper ore.

CASTRO SAYS STATE OF SIEGE TO CONTINUE

PA202324 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Sources in the government said tonight that the state of seige will not be lifted so long as the outbreak of rebellion that led to its implementation continues.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] The public order situation is deteriorating, especially in Valle del Cauca and Cauca Departments. In those departments constant clashes have been reported between soldiers and elements of the so-called America Battalion, comprising guerrillas of Colombia's M-19, Ecuador's Alfaro Vive, Peru's Tupac Amaru, and others.

Recently, Government Minister Jaime Castro Castro said that consideration was given to the possibility of lifting the state of seige but that in view of the situation that possibility was postponed. Today the Army was still confined to barracks. In the country's major cities intensive patrol operations were conducted as today is the anniversary of the beginning of M-19 operations. [end recording]

DEFENSE, FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT SAN ANDRES

PA190050 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] High military commands led by Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe and Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo are now in Providencia island as part of their tour through the San Andres Archipelago. The Colombian officials continue to carry out actions reaffirming sovereignty over the islands and cays in the archipelago and to inspect the forces of San Andrews. The defense minister announced the purchase of military equipment and insisted that the islands are well patrolled and protected.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How many are there? Are one noncommissioned officer and eight marines enough to guarantee sovereignty in a cay such as this one, Bolivar Cay?

[Vega Uribe] They are enough according to the individual circumstances that might arise. Right now we are protecting, guarding all these cays. However, this is all part of a plan, and these eight marines will be reinforced at a given moment, when other measures are enforced. For the time being, I think these eight marines are enough.

[Reporter] Will the Arned Forces have their new helicopters, new patrol boats, and new weapons before this administration concludes its term in office on 7 August?

[Vega Uribe] Yes, I think so. I think we will have part of it. Yes, enough to cover the basic needs of an Army to safeguard sovereignty and internal order. We are not participating in an arms race. We are a country respectful of international law, pacts, and agreements we have signed, and we hope that this same spirit will prevail with everyone. [end recording]

BOMB EXPLODES BEHIND U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

PY211134 Paris AFP in Spanish 1116 GMT Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP) -- The police have reported that a car bomb exploded at 0510 (1010 GMT) behind the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Lima. The police have reported that there was damage, but they did not report any victims. There was a spectacular police mobilization after the explosion, which destroyed the windows of some houses and buildings in the neighborhood. The residence of the U.S. ambassador is located approximately 15 blocks from downtown Lima, and it is one of the buildings that has the best protection against terrorist attack.

It has not been reported whether Ambassador Jordan or his wife were inside the residence at the time of the attack. The residence has been the target of at least two terrorist attacks. No organization has claimed responsibility for the car bomb attack, a terrorist method that is often used in Lebanon. A police officer has commented that the car bomb that exploded at the residence of the U.S. ambassador could be meant as a terrorist protest against the recent U.S. attack against Libya.

WAGNER ON U.S. CONGRESS, AID TO CONTRAS

PY181529 Lima Latinoamericana Television in Spanish 0430 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Allan Wagner tonight expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the U.S. House of Representatives to turn down the executive branch's request for $100 million in assistance for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, how do you and the government in particular view the decision by the U.S. House of Representatives to reject President Reagan's request for assistance to the anti-Sandinists?

[Wagner] I believe that it is very encouraging for the peace process being conducted by the Contadora Group and backed by the Support Group. The decision is the expression of the will of the American people voiced by their representatives. The vote was overwhelmingly against the request for assistance to the contras, 361 votes to 66, with 7 abstentions. It is important to point out that according to a poll conducted by THE NEW YORK TIMES and the CBS television network, only 25 percent of the public in the United States favors assistance to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries; 62 percent are explicitly against such assistance; and 12 percent did not express an opinion.

[Reporter] How can you, Mr. Minister, explain this decision by the U.S. representatives?

[Wagner] Two things came together at this point: First, a motion was approved yesterday by the House of Representatives on the initiative of Democratic Party representatives, whereby whatever the result of the vote on assistance to the anti-Sandinists, a bill including actions to which the U.S. Administration is opposed would have to be written; but this bill would have been vetoed by the U.S. President. This means that, in addition to the Democratic votes contrary to the assistance -- the same that were cast some weeks ago in the House of Representatives -- this time there were no votes from Republican representatives as well. Thus, the result we mentioned before. Consequently, the bill on military assistance to the contras was repealed in the House of Representatives, and a new initiative from the U.S. Administration or the Republican bloc in the House of Representatives will be necessary to revive another such proposal.

[Reporter] In the meantime, Mr Minister, what will be the future of Nicaragua? Will it have more time to breathe at ease?

[Wagner] We believe that it will be very important, because the five Central American countries have accepted the invitation extended in Panama by the Contadora and the Support Groups to immediately resume negotiations on the act of Contadora and to finish those negotiations by 6 June. The acceptance by these five Central American countries clearly shows their capacity to seek peace among themselves without external interference and with the cooperation of the Contadora and Support Groups.

NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PY151619 Paris AFP in Spanish 0012 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 14 Apr (AFP) -- When the new Cuban representative, Francisco Ramos Alvarez, today presented his credentials to President Alan Garcia, Peru and Cuba resumed diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level exactly 6 years after they were severed. The two countries reduced their diplomatic relations to the charge d'affaires level in 1980, when 10,000 Cubans invaded the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. During President Fernando Belaunde's 5-year administration, Peru did not take any step toward normalizing diplomatic relations with Cuba. Since Garcia's installation, however, Lima and Havana have displayed a desire to appoint ambassadors agains.

Carlos Higueras, the new Peruvian ambassador to Havana, is already in that city. It has been reported that he will present his credentials to President Fidel Castro this week. While Ambassador Ramos was presenting his credentials, a delegation of Cuban musicians, including singers Silvio Rodriguez and Pablo Milanes, was staging a show at the Tupac Amaru Park, where some of the Cubans whose invasion of the Peruvian Embassy caused the withdrawal of both ambassadors, lived from 1980 to 1985.

CENTROMIN MINEWORKERS TO CONCLUDE STRIKE

PY142236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1526 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Peruvian Mines and Energy Minister Wilfredo Huayta today announced that the workers of the state company Centromin are returning to work. Seventeen thousand mineworkers have been on strike since 24 February, and each day of the strike has allegedly cost the country $1 million. Although there is still no complete estimate of number of workers who returned to work, it seems that some of them are still refusing to work. The government had granted them a $1.90 daily increase but the workers rejected this and demanded more, so the government granted an additional increase to be paid over the next few months.

On 12 April President Alan Garcia said that the government would not allow blackmail like the mineworkers' strike, adding that the government could not give more than the salary increase it has already granted. The president recalled that after an agreement was signed to end the strike, four workers who had signed this agreement were murdered by either fanatics or terrorists. It seems that the firm attitude of the government has convinced the workers on strike that they would not be able to obtain more advantages, so they are returning to their work. Centromin is a company that includes many mines in the Central Peruvian Mountain Range.

LUSINCHI VIEWS RECENT TRIP, DEBT REFINANCING

PA180451 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has said that the invocation of the contingency clause opens the way to adjust the refinancing to the new Venezuelean situation due to the drop in the price of oil. The president made this statement while discussing several other subjects and reporting on his recent trip to three friendly countries. The Venezuelan president feels very proud of his goodwill tour. The following is a report by Omayra Botello:

[Begin recording] [Botello] With these words, and full of emotion, President Lusinchi greeted the reporters who were at Miraflores Palace. The president underscored that as a Venezuelan it was an important experience to see the respect that others have for our country's democracy, its prospects, and development. He also said Venezuela is considered a leader and that we should be proud of this.

[Lusinchi] We did a good service to Latin America. We discussed the Latin American interests and problems. We also discussed our countries, focusing on bilaterial relations. It was truly moving to see the reaction of the people in Argentina and Uruguay. They were very spontaneous and expressed a deep love for Venezuela.

[Botello] Another matter the president talked about was the invocation of the contingency clause and the effects it would have on refinancing the debt, which has already been completed.

[Lusinchi] The invocation of the contingency clause opens the way to adjust the refinancing to the new Venezuelan situation due to the significant drop in the price of oil. In terms of numbers, it is a basically matter of time and interest. Legally, the country has nothing to fear. Some have spoken of betraying the homeland; this is only speculation aimed a discrediting an achievement made by the country to confront a situation that was not created by this government.

[Botello] President Lusinchi was also asked about the appointment of the new president of the Supreme Court of Justice. Lusinchi says he shares Humberto Celli's feelings, however he added that the magistrates, despite their ties with their specific parties, are not subject, nor can they be subjected, to party discipline or orders. Regarding the incident in the Mediterranean Sea, President Lusinchi said that Venezuela condemns all form of violence, and this is stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

BOMB EXPLODES AT MORMON CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST

PA191819 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1752 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Caracas, 19 Apr (DPA) -- Police sources reported today that a bomb exploded at the Mormon Church (U.S.) in Puerto Ordaz, in southeast Venezuela. The attack may have been carried out to protest the U.S. attacks on two Libyan cities. The presumed terrorist who carried out the operation was seriously injured, according to first reports.

RIVA PALACIO REJECTS FORCE AS ANSWER TO TERRORISM

PA200231 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 3

[By Ada Crespo]

[Excerpts] Speaking before the Group of 20 Women [Grupo 20 Mujeres] on the conflict between the United States and Libya, Antonio Riva Palacio, president of the Senate's Grand Commission, said that the use of force is not the solution to achieve world peace and that the only alternative is to abide by the international legal order.

Mexico, Riva Palacio said, without any doubt condemns terrorism. Riva Palacio added that it is necessary to study the two natures of terrorism: its origin and the final expression of violence. Regarding its origin, Riva Palacio said that it must be fought back on the basis of the law, through agreements and cooperation among the nations.

When reviewing the 75th World Inter-Parliamentarian Conference, attended by 94 parliamentarians who represented an equal number of countries, Riva Palacio said that the U.S.-Libyan conflict endangers world peace and the survival of all of humankind.

Riva Palacio admitted that the international organizations responsible for maintaining world peace have not been able to offer effective solutions, however, he added, we must recognize their value as forums and we must, therefore, make an effort to strengthen them.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CRITICIZES U.S., SUPPORTS LIBYA

FL182116 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1926 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Aleksandrovich Sergeyev has said that the Soviet Union will remain prudent in the conflict between Libya and the United States. Nevertheless, the USSR asks the U.S. Government not to lose its head or political patience, said the ambassador.

The diplomat reiterated his government's peaceful position and added his country has always condemned and will continue to condemn individual as well as state terrorism. Sergeyev said the cards are on the table, and the United States is conducting nuclear testing while demanding we discontinue such tests, knowing that the balance between our two nations is what checks other nations from wantonly attacking small countries.

Sergeyev stressed that the Soviet Union considers Libya's problem to be a flagrant aggression against a sovereign country and the Soviet Government supports Libya because of its self-determination and nonintervention. In reference to the statements by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, which appeared in the press yesterday, Sergeyev said it is logical that the USSR supports several countries that have defensive weapons to protect their independence and sovereignty. He predicted that if the Reagan administration continues to support warlike situations, doubtlessly we will have a military escalation which does not exclude a nuclear conflict (conflagracion), something very dangerous for humankind in this day and age. The Soviet Government will strive for a new treaty that would check the use of and prohibit nuclear weapons, said Sergeyev.

SPANISH ENVOY PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES

FL182358 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 18 April (NOTIMEX) -- Spanish Ambassador to Mexico Pedro Bermejo has said that the Spanish Government will support the U.S. Government in its struggle against terrorism with diplomatic measures instead of war-like measures. He added that Spain, just like other EEC countries, is willing to negotiate with Libya, the Arab nations, and the Reagan administration to end the Libyan-U.S. conflict and avoid the death of innocent persons.

When he was interviewed at Mexico City International Airport, the ambassador said that a single country, even if it is great power, cannot combat terrorism alone and that true world cooperation is necessary to solve such a problem.

When questioned about the position of his government if Libya decided to launch terrorist attacks against Spain, Bermejo answered: First, that situation would have to come about, and second it would be necessary to determine if the attack really came from the Libyan Government, because it is not easy to determine where this type of attack comes from because terrorism has no ID cards and does not announce for whom the terrorists areacting. But we definitely would not respond with a bombing attack.

He said it is evident that this type of incident can lead to irrational reactions but fortunately we have not reached this extreme, as is proven by the fact that the USSR severely condemned the U.S. attack on Libya but has not taken any unreasonable action.

Finally, the representative of the Spanish Government in Mexico said that security measures had been reinforced at all airports, embassies, and U.S. businesses and military bases located on the Liberian Peninsula in order to avoid all sabotage.

SEPULVEDA MEETS WITH EEC AMBASSADORS TO MEXICO

PA200012 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 17

[Text] The Mexican Foreign Secretariat today reported that Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor met with the 12 EEC ambassadors accredited in Mexico.

The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the Central American situation in the light of the recent actions within the framework of the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group. The foreign secretary stressed the important fact that Latin America and Europe have coincided in convoking the countries directly involved in the Central American crisis and those countries that have interests and ties in the region in the peacemaking efforts, based on respect of the right of self-determination and the sovereignty of the peoples. Foreign Secretary Sepulveda underscored the role of the Caraballeda message for peace, democracy, and security in Central America aimed at the reactivation of the negotiations. Sepulveda explained a group of simultaneous actions whose urgent implementation would generate the prompt signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America.

The Mexican foreign secretary spoke of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and Support Group held in Panama between 5 and 7 April. Sepulveda said that one of the important achievements of the meeting was the statement made by all the participants who agreed that the Contadora Group is the only feasible and efficient organization, opposed to the use of force or the military solution, that can overcome the current Central American crisis.

Likewise, the internal and external obstacles confronted by the diplomatic negotiations were clearly expressed. These obstacles can hinder the peacemaking purpose that has united the political will of the Latin American countries.

The EEC representatives reaffirmed the willingness of their respective governments to continue promoting the search for a political solution to the Central American conflicts. They recalled the call made to the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to put forth their best efforts to reestablish the environment of trust necessary for the negotiation and the signing of the Contadora document, as mentioned in the 11 April declaration.

During the meeting, the importance of giving continuity and trust to the economic, financial and commercial cooperation agreements made by the representatives of the EEC, the central American nations, and the Contadora Group countries during the meetings in San Jose, Costa Rica, and Luxembourg was reiterated. In this respect, the need for the peace initiatives to be complemented by an effective cooperation that will support Central America and promote its economic and social development was stressed. Without this support, the goals for democracy, stability, and peace in the region, will not be truly or definitely achieved.

DEL MAZO GONZALEZ APPOINTED NEW ENERGY SECRETARY

FL181822 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1753 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Today Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid appointed Mexican State Governor Alfredo del Mazo Gonzalez as new secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry.

Del Mazo will have to request leave from the State of Mexico's local congress in order to accept the presidential appointment.

Alfredo del Mazo will replace Francisco Labastido Ochoa, who was nominated for governor by the ruling PRI for the northern State of Sinoloa.

LIBYAN DIPLOMAT CLAIMS CANAL THREAT 'PROPAGANDA'

PA191754 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 pp 32, 30

[By Daniel Espinosa]

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the current conflict that has had much significance between the Governments of Libya and the United States, Hebraim Drede, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [name and title as published], held a news conference for more than 50 members of the media. He said that "the United States is just one more obstacle for the nations with a spirit of liberty that are fighting for their ideals."

In addition to noting that "the United Kingdom has an open collusion with the United States," he said that these two countries, with a premeditated plan, launched an attack in the dark of at night while innocent people were asleep, dreaming of a new day."

Regarding reports about an alleged terrorist attack with explosives in the canal, he said that this is propaganda disseminated by the United States and its allies to create a climate of tension, and thus impair the efforts of a small nation such as Panama, but which will not be intimidated in the face of attacks regardless of their origin so long as they go against the security of Libya. [sentence as published]

Asked about solutions via the diplomatic path for this conflict, which may result in a war of bigger consequences, Drede said that his country has placed no obstacle in this regard, but that the United States has not reacted positively, despite the fact that it started the conflict.

Asked about a possible economic blockade by the Arab nations against the United States as a reprisal, he said only "we have the 100 percent support of the Arab countries and we are sure that they will do whatever they have to do to support us."

HONDURAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER ARRIVES

PA181728 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] This afternoon General Humberto Regalado, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, arrived at the Panamanian Air Force airport. His counterpart General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, met Gen Regalado at the airport. After the military ceremony, where the national anthems of the two countries were played, Regalado reviewed the honor guard. The military ceremony concluded with the presentation of the National Defense Forces General Staff.

At the airport, General Humberto Regalado made statements exclusively for Televisora Nacional regarding his visit to Panama.

[Begin recording] I was recently appointed commander of the Honduran Armed Forces and I want... [changes thought] I believe it is important to come and meet with Gen Noriega. The Panamanian and the Honduran Armed Forces have always maintained a friendship as well as Panama and Honduras. That is the purpose of my visit. We believe in the democratic system, are willing to defend it, and they [not further identified] believe in their communist system, thus the struggle will be a struggle for survival. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

MORE ON 17 APRIL EXPLOSION NEAR U.S. CONSULATE

PA181321 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1251 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Six citizens who were waiting for the Moravia route bus were wounded when a device exploded in front of the U.S. Consulate. Shortly after the explosion, U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs said that it had been a terrorist attack. He added that the possibility that it was a reprisal against the U.S. Government because of Monday's attack on Libya cannot be ruled out. After the explosion, the citizens who had been waiting for the bus fled in every direction to take cover, while the six citizens who were wounded fell to the ground.

Since Wednesday afternoon the police have received two anonymous telephone calls announcing that bombs were placed in the judicial complex buildings and the U.S.-Costa Rican Cultural Institute. Although the various accounts about the period prior to the explosion are contradictory, two accounts seem to be the most credible. One of the versions indicates that a pedestrian hurled the explosive device under a Moravia route bus, which to a certain extent muffled the impact of the bomb. Another version says that the bomb was hurled against the consulate building by individuals traveling in an unidentified car. The citizens waiting for the bus said they saw nothing to make them suspicious.

After the bomb explosion, special agents of the Judicial Investigation Agency and National Security arrived at the site and began gathering evidence and searching for possible suspects. The authorities have yet to announce what type of explosive device was used because the analysis of the fragments will not take place until today.

FDN Blames Nicaraguans

PA181940 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1845 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] In the wake of the attack on the U.S. Embassy [as heard] in our country, FDN leader Dr Donald Lacayo has said that Libyan terrorist acts under Colonel al-Qadhdhafi have been transferred to Central America and to our country. He pointed out that the bomb planted yesterday constitutes an attack against Costa Rican democratic liberties and a projection [proyeccion] of the communist Nicaraguan regime.

Lacayo pointed out that Nicaraguan Embassy officials are directly involved in the attack, because they have received military training in Cuba on explosives, demolitions, and sabotage operations. Finally, Dr Lacayo said that this is why there is no need to look elsewhere for the culprits of the attack, because the Nicaraguan representatives in our country are involved in it.

Authorities Reinforce Security

PA191831 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1721 GMT 19 Apr 86

[By Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Text] San Jose, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican authorities have reinforced security measures at diplomatic missions and state offices in the face of persistent bomb threats and the explosion of a grenade near the U.S. Consulate. Last Thursday night a U.S.-made "M-16" fragmentation grenade exploded 25 meters from the U.S. Embassy. [as received]

The device, which went off underneath a bus in the middle of the street, left four people injured, two of whom are still in the hospital, as well as causing minor damage to surrounding businesses. Persistent anonymous calls have reported the placement of explosives in the Supreme Court building, the civil registry building, the Costa Rican-U.S. Cultural Center, schools, hospitals, and even businesses. All of these calls have been false alarms but have nevertheless required the evacuation of these facilities.

Colonel Lesmes Chaves, director of the Civil Guard, said today that various police organizations have united to reinforce the vigilance of public buildings, stores, and the streets of the capital. An official spokesman said that the identity of those who placed an explosive near the U.S. diplomatic mission 2 days ago is not yet known for sure, but there are some suspicions. It was reported that to date the only report about the person who placed the bomb is that of a witness, whose name is being withheld for security reasons. This witness told Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) officials that the suspect was wearing military fatigues. The same witness said that the assailant, who is being trailed by the OIJ, fled toward the eastern part of the capital after carrying out his objective.

Meanwhile, approximately 15 people who were arrested on the day the grenade exploded were released in the past few hours when it was proven that they had no criminal records and had no connection with terrorist action, an OIJ source reported. Col Chaves said that "there is evidence" which allows them to believe that there are several Costa Ricans trained in Libya here who have ties with sectors of the extreme left. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge conceded yesterday the possibility that the Libyan Government is behind this attack, as a reprisal for the U.S. bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi on Tuesday [as received]. The president said that those who carried out the attack may have ties "with international terrorist groups" and recalled that in Nicaragua there are offices of the ETA, the Basque separatist movement; the PLO; and the government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

MONGE DENIES U.S. EXERTING PRESSURE ON HIM

PA192110 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] The rumors that the United States is exerting pressure on Costa Rica are completely false. This comment was made by President Luis Alberto Monge, who added that these rumors are one of the recourses of those who oppose President Reagan's initiative to help Nicaraguan rebel groups. He added that these people think that in this way they are weakening the position of the U.S. President by accusing him of exerting pressure on Costa Rica. I want to remind them that many times the Nicaraguan Government and its sympathizers here in Costa Rica have said that Reagan has placed conditions on economic aid to Costa Rica. They said that the President will help me so long as I militarize the country, in other words that I create an army and become involved in the Nicaraguan conflict, Monge noted. For this reason, I have had to set this matter straight several times.

Monge said that U.S. aid to our country has not been approved by the Congress yet. He said that there is a portion of the funds that must be delivered to Costa Rica in April, and the Costa Rican ambassador and the AID director are doing their best in the United States so that the funds are delivered while the bill on foreign aid is being approved.

Monge added that Contadora cannot determine which kind of policy the United States should have. The United States is a sovereign and autonomous country. It is a world power that has its own ideas about its responsibility concerning security, Monge said. For this reason, the United States cannot guarantee Nicaragua that it will no longer favor the idea of aid for mercenary groups.

He added that [words indistinct] after Somoza's ouster, neither the OAS nor Contadora, when it was created, were able to prevent Nicaragua from arming itself in such excessive manner with the help of the Soviet bloc.

GUTIERREZ ON NICARAGUA, CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA181756 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has stated that if Nicaragua does not sign the Contadora document it will assume a historical responsibility. He added that, undoubtedly, there cannot be a system of peace in Central America without the participation of historical Central America. If Nicaragua does not sign, citing its reasons, this means that Nicaragua would be ending a process such as Contadora -- one that involves dialogue conditions -- which is peaceful and comprehensive in regard to the area problems. He added that Contadora, as an overall settlement, is the best possibility for Central America, and if someone in Central America opposes the achievement of Contadora goals, then let that someone assume the historical responsibility, the foreign minister concluded.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE TO VISIT SUPPORT GROUP COUNTRIES

PA190310 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Apr 86

[By Jose Salvador Castellanos]

[Excerpts] President Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived at the Legislative Palace accompanied by several members of his cabinet. The Legislative Assembly president welcomed him, and said that the president's visit complied with a constitutional norm stating the president must ratify before the plenum his request for a permit to leave the country. As the president stated, he will use the permit granted yearly by the Legislative Assembly. He added that he first plans to go to Costa Rica to attend the 8 May inauguration of the Costa Rican president-elect. He will avail himself of this opportunity to convey the Salvadoran support to the new democratic regime. Duarte said that he will later go to Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. He will then return.

From here he will fly to Guatemala to attend the Central American president's summit slated for 25 May. Regarding his trip to South America, Duarte said that his trip is of importance because the four countries he is to visit comprise the Support Group to the Contadora Group and, in addition, they drafted the Caraballeda message. He said that this message was an instrument necessary for peace in the region.

[Begin recording] Nicaragua has sent many large delegations. It is estimated that in the past months at least 200 persons have traveled to those countries to exert influence. For that reason, I have always felt that Latin American integration is important, vital, and significant. In this specific case, we must keep that area in mind. [end recording]

Moreover, the president commented on the U.S. attack against Libya.

[Begin recording] I do not want to delve into it. I ask you to understand me. I do not want to delve or go into details about the conduct of nations. I do not think I should go into that because it is more important to go into the country's problems and the area's problems and to seek solutions that are truly our own. [end recording]

CASTILLO CLARAMOUNT VIEWS NICARAGUAN POLICY

PA181720 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, Salvadoran vice president and foreign minister, has said that Nicaragua will not be able to participate in the sessions to solve Central American problems so long as it continues with its policy to destabilize the rest of the countries of the region. Regarding this destabilization, he said:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] not only verbal expressions but the actions that show a commitment in the support, maintenance, and [word indistinct] of the Salvadoran guerrillas. Unfortunately, there is a Nicaraguan commitment in this. Therefore, Nicaragua must change its conduct because, I repeat -- and President Duarte clearly told President Ortega this at the inauguration of President Vinicio Cerezo in Guatemala -- that the permanence and viability of his model and government depend on the strengthening of Central American democracies.

Do not destabilize my government, abstain from your effort to destabilize and your effort to nurture guerrillas, Duarte told Ortega face to face. [end recording]

COFFEE PRODUCERS ACCUSE U.S. ENVOY OF MEDDLING

PA180029 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Apr 86 pp 3, 54

[Text] The Association of Salvadoran Coffee Producers yesterday accused Edwin Corr, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, of meddling in domestic affairs and promoting Incafe [National Coffee Institute]. The association accused Corr of interfering in the state de jure, interfering in the economy of the market, and hindering the implementation of a true democracy in our country. The coffee growers are wondering why Ambassador Corr is pressuring the Supreme Court of Justice not to rule on the Incafe case. They have also asked why the diplomat supports the state's monopoly of foreign trade and hinders the division of state powers.

Likewise, Francisco Garcia Rossi, president of the association, said he had learned that U.S. Embassy personnel in El Salvador are responsible for drafting the ill-named economic reactivation plan, better known as the swindle package. Garcia also said that Ambassador Corr had publicly made statements that confirm this charge. Garcia Rossi said he had also learned that U.S. Embassy personnel have been exerting pressure to prevent the Supreme Court of Justice from ruling on the Incafe case. Garcia said that the coffee producers are suprised by the fact that the U.S. Embassy is trying to implement a system in El Salvador that is totally different from the one President Reagan has used in the United States. Reagan has implemented a plan to develop private enterprise in his country without any type of intervention. Therefore, it is surprising that something completely different is being ordered here, Garcia added. Garcia said that these measures have not worked in any other country of the world. He recalled that shortly after Corr arrived in El Salvador the coffee producers met with him and found him to be very well informed of the corruption existing in El Salvador.

Garcia added that they fear Corr's actions because before he came to El Salvador he was in a country where the devaluation had reached such an extreme that the price of a cup 3 years ago became the price of a toothbrush 3 years later. This is why they say that they fear Ambassador Corr's actions. This was in Bolivia, Garcia stressed.

Another coffee producer said that it would be good for the U.S. Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, responsible for approving the appointment of all U.S. ambassadors, to investigate Corr's actions in El Salvador just as they did with Ambassador Robert White a few years ago. Perhaps they can get the diplomat to say why he supports the Incafe.

The coffee growers feel that with his actions, Corr is putting the skids under President Reagan, and President Reagan is not aware of this. Likewise, the coffee producers said that they had learned that Ambassador Corr made special trips to Miami in March to meet with the Salvadorans living there to promote Incafe and to defend its existence. They said that this is a way of pressuring the Supreme Court not to rule on this important issue. We hope President Reagan will become aware of what his ambassador is doing and ask him to report on his actions, they added.

ASSEMBLY DECREES SUSPENSION OF GUARANTEES

PA190303 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Apr 86 pp 3, 49

[Excerpt] The Legislative Assembly suspended yesterday -- upon request from the Armed Forces -- the guarantees concerning the freedom of expression, for 1 month. The Defense and Public Security Commission issued a favorable ruling concerning the Armed Forces' request, taking into consideration the explanations given by Colonel Carlos Reinaldo Lopez Nuila, deputy minister of public security, and the various viewpoints that were discussed. It was agreed to issue a new decree suspending the guarantees, instead of extending the state of siege. The only exception is that the suspension concerning Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Constitution is not applicable to the political parties. Article 6 refers to the guarantees concerning freedom of expression. During the discussion of this ruling, which also includes the stage of siege, the deputies again resorted to angry arguments and personal attacks; this has been constant during the latest assembly meetings.

GUATEMALA

TWO KIDNAPPED U.S. CHILDREN RESCUED UNHARMED

PA201716 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A special unit of the Guatemalan National Police has rescued alive two 11-year-old U.S. children who had been kidnapped on Thursday, it was officially reported today. The two children, William Loran Macdonal and Brandon Torit Carter, were found yesterday by a police patrol in a cave in an uninhabited part of Olintepeque municipality, in western Quezaltenango Department.

Police authorities said they received reports on Friday that two U.S. children had been kidnapped the day before when they were on their way to a cafeteria in the southern part of Guatemala City. An undetermined number of armed men violently forced the children into a car and drove away to an unknown destination.

The fathers of the two children, Lower Macdonal and Gari Lyn Carter, reported the disappearance of the two children to the national police 12 hours after the abduction, when they realized the two children had not come home. From that point on, investigations started, and all the country's police forces were informed and given a physical description of the U.S. children.

The police investigations bore fruit yesterday when the two children were found in a cave. The kidnappers managed to escape. The children's fathers, who belong to the "Living Water" ["Agua Viva"] religious organization, had traveled with their two children in evangelizing missions to the country's western high plateau several times since their arrival in Guatemala 3 weeks ago. The police of Quezaltenango, 227 km from Guatemala City, took the children to the capital city safe and sound and delivered them to their parents.

PRESIDENT MEETS ROVING U.S. AMBASSADOR HABIB

PA192214 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Philip Habib, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, met with President Cereno at the presidential palace yesterday afternoon. Habib and Cerezo met for about an hour. Only a few details of the meeting were released through the public relations secretary. The topics of discussion included international policy and the Contadora Group, to which President Cerezo reiterated his support. He also reiterated Guatemala's willingness to sign the Contadora Document in June with the other three countries. [as heard]

Later President Cerezo commented on the interview with Ambassador Habib. He said that the problem of Libya was also discussed and that Guatemala reiterated its neutrality in international conflicts.

GOVERNMENT WILLING TO SIGN CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA192236 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Apr (EFE) -- President Vinicio Cerezo said today that even if Nicaragua refuses, Guatemala is willing to sign the document for peace and cooperation in Central America proposed by the Contadora Group. The Christian Democratic president said that "a consensus has been reached among Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica," to sign the document on 6 June and this decision was reaffirmed "during the recent meeting of Central American vice presidents (Nicaragua not included), held in Costa Rica."

The Contadora Group has called on all the governments of the area to sign the regional peace treaty on 6 June. This treaty has been under negotiation since January 1983. According to the Guatemalan Government, the decision of the four countries to sign the document was based "on the assurance that this will represent an essential step toward peace in the region and the solution to the problems the region is experiencing."

However, Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita continues to believe that if the Contadora document is signed by only four of the countries, the document will be "useless and inoperative."

In the beginning, President Cerezo's government felt that before the document was signed it was necessary to discuss the issues of arms control and area security, however, it has now decided to sign the document without preconditions. The government maintains its position in that "through dialogue and concerted efforts" a consensus can be reached, and it hopes that "Nicaragua will change its attitude."

Nicaragua has agreed to sign the Contadora document if the United States promises to stop its support to the anti-Sandinist groups. According to Managua, signing the document under any other conditions would be an act of "suicide."

HONDURAS

5 DEAD IN POSSIBLE ARSON AT U.S. CITIZEN'S HOUSE

PA191905 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1835 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Five people were burned to death in a fire that took place early today at the house of a U.S. citizen in this capital, which Honduran firemen believe was arson. The fire began at 0030 (0630 GMT), but firemen did not come to put it out until 1 hour later when they were called. The house, in the so-called "El Hatillo" area, in the sougheastern outskirts of Tegucigalpa, belongs to a rich family of this capital, but had been rented to a U.S. citizen named Paul Newton.

According to firemen, "the five bodies were together in one room. This indicates that they could have been killed before the fire." None of the victims have been identified yet. It was indicated that coroners are conducting autopsies on the burnt bodies, three of whom were women; one of the three was a black woman. The house was made of concrete, which leads firemen to suspect that the fire was caused by arson.

Libyan Connection Ruled Out

PA201345 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1250 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Apr (REUTER) -- Police reported today that the bodies of five people, two of them U.S. citizens, were found in the ruins of a luxurious house, involved in a fire, of one of the North Americans. The owner of the mansion was identified as Paul Newton, whose handcuffed body was found among the ashes. He had a bullet wound in the leg and the shoulder. The U.S. Embassy declined to make any comments until his relatives have been informed.

The other bodies -- another North American, one Honduran man, and two Honduran women -- had their hands tied with wire but showed no bullet wounds, Newton's neighbors and police officials said. The neighbors said that Newton, who had lived in Honduras for 20 years, owned a soft drink plant. They said they heard several shots before the brick and wooden house went up in flames shortly before midnight on Friday. The bodies were found yesterday.

U.S. sources said that they had ruled out political reasons for the action. "This has nothing to do with Libyan death squads or that type of thing," a source said. Friends of Newton said he was divorced and lived alone, but they did not know that city he was from. They said he used to give parties which were frequently attended by U.S. military personnel.

AZCONA ADMITS CONTRA PRESENCE IN COUNTRY

PA191247 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1211 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Newspapers are publishing today President Azcona Hoyo's remark that the contras have camps in Honduras. Our reporter, Nery Artiaga, also obtained that remark when he asked the president about the presence of Nicaraguan contras in our territory.

The president said that the contras are using Honduran territory as a base of operations and have installed camps on the border with Nicaragua.

They have installed camps on the border area with Nicaragua, this is an explicit acknowledgement that the counterrevolutionary groups are operating in Honduras. Artiaga was able to obtain some statements from the president:

[Begin recording] [Artiaga] While General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, the Armed Forces commander, gets upset when someone talks to him about the counterrevolutionaries, Azcona Hoyo admitted this morning that the Honduran territory is used by the contras in a transitory way. He noted that the Honduran Armed Forces cannot be guarding the border just to keep the Sandinists' backs protected. Let's listen to him:

[Azcona Hoyo] Well, what I have admitted and I have said this many times is that the border between Honduras and Nicaragua is a very vast border and that the contras go in and out of it. Therefore, when they enter, it is because they must have provisional camps. But this is explainable, because for us to protect the border we would have to send all of our Armed Forces there, and I think that Honduras has more important and urgent matters to take care of. We would have to come up with a special budget to protect the border completely in order to cover the Sandinists' backs. [end recording]

CODEH SAYS U.S. GAVE CONTRAS $20 MILLION

PA180437 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 20

[Text] San Pedro Sula -- The $20 million granted in aid by the U.S. Government with the pretext of strengthening the Honduran Army was nothing more than a simple trick planned by the Azcona Hoyo and Ronald Reagan governments to support the Nicaraguan contras, Miguel Angel Pabon, regional president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CODEH), said yesterday. According to Pabon, who is also a deputy for the National Innovation and Unity Party (PINU), said that $20 million did not go to the Honduran Army; it was used to strengthen the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Proof of this is that the contra leaders boast that they have already received an advance of $20 million of the $100 million approved by the U.S. Congress.

"The controversial violation of Honduran sovereignty by the Sandinist Army last Holy Week was only an invention to make the Reagan administration grant the aid through a justifiable excuse, which was revealed when Azcona Hoyo denied that he requested the aid, and Reagan government officials stated that Azcona had not requested the money," the CODEH leader said. "Our organization feels that the presence of contras in our country, which has been officially admitted by the top civilian and military authorities, places Honduras in a delicate position within the Central American conflict, especially in the Nicaraguan conflict." "This is why we believe the Honduran Government should adjust its foreign policy, basically in regard to what the Constitution and international treaties stipulate, as they prohibit one state from getting involved in the internal affairs of other states," Pabon said. He added: "We would favor our government's acting like neighboring Costa Rica with regard to the policy of non-intervention. Despite Costa Rica's military weakness, it has not thought of becoming militarized in the manner in which Honduras is."

"If we want to establish firm barriers to check the acts of violence that emerge from the social problems that exist in other countries, we should be determined to attend to the serious social problems affecting the Honduran people," Pabon said. "We do not want to be used by foreign powers, whatever their ideological leanings, but to avoid this we must adopt dignified positions. It is not enough to say that we are no one's lackies if we see that our country has become the headquarters of foreign forces," he said. Finally, Pabon said that Contadora is still the path to a peaceful solution and it could end the warmongering and arms buildup tendencies that prevail in the Central American region.

AZCONA DISCUSSES U.S. TIES, CENTRAL AMERICA

PA151839 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 12 Apr 86 pp 6, 7

[Transcript of telephone interview given by President Jose Azcona Hoyo to correspondent Fermin Bocos of Spain's SER Television Network; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bocos] Good evening from Spain.

[Azcona] Good morning from Honduras.

[Bocos] How are things going for Hondurans?

[Azcona] Well, regarding economic matters, things are improving. Some factors are having a favorable impact on the economy. The country is very peaceful.

[Bocos] Regarding political matters, in Spain we received reports that there has been some pressure.

[Azcona] Political matters are very normal; and social aspects are going very well. There is great peace. There was an amnesty, and not a single political prisoner was left in jail. There are no political persecutions. There is full freedom of the printed and spoken media, and there are full freedoms. We are in a democracy; we fully enjoy it.

[Bocos] However, Mr President, one does not live in paradise if one's neighbors do not want this to be a paradise, isn't that right?

[Azcona] Well, there is some truth to that. However, fortunately for Honduras the border with Nicaragua runs along a very rural area. This is the most unpopulated area in Honduras, except for some kilometers in the country's southeastern area. Most of the border, which is approximately 700 kilometers, covers, as I said, unpopulated territory within the two countries. Therefore, any incident that might take place along the border has fewer repercussions in these areas.

[Bocos] In Spain we have received reports on pressure exerted by that country, pressure to make Honduras take military initiatives against Nicaragua.

[Azcona] Pressure from whom?

[Bocos] From the United States.

[Azcona] That is not true. The United States is quite attuned; the Ronald Reagan government does not want war with Nicaragua in Honduras. Moreover, we are in no way fanning war. Quite the contrary, they [the United States] are quite aware of this. They have not pressured us, and I believe they will never pressure us on that. The Honduran Government, or rather the Republic of Honduras, has an Armed Forces with barely 17,000 men, including the police. How can we be thinking of attacking Nicaragua when Nicaragua has more than 250,000 soldiers? Nicaragua has begun an unchecked and alarming arms race. No one is going to drag us into a war, and the United States knows this. This is nothing but propaganda that falls through when one visits this country and verifies that Honduras is not engaged in an arms race.

[Bocos] Aren't there any sectors in Honduran society that may now be studying this possibility?

[Azcona] None. The entire population of Honduras does not want war with Nicaragua. We are all very clear on this. We are concerned about the total consolidation of the Nicaraguan revolution, and that in view of the Marxists' expansionism they may want to expand their doctrine to Honduras through subversion, training, and so forth. That is the danger looming over us, because here in this country we want to live in democracy. The government or the progovernment party can never be described as ultrarightist, reactionary, warmongering, or totally leaning toward the U.S. Government. Instead, our party, the Liberal Party, has had more friendships, ties, and ideological affinity with the U.S. Democratic Party than with the Republican Party. However, in this particular case we must be concerned because the Nicaraguan situation is very difficult. We are not inventing that. Nicaragua's problem is a domestic problem. It is a problem because the freedoms of the Nicaraguan people are being curtailed, and because all economic resources are being used for an arms race. There is a war psychosis in that country. Therefore, all of Nicaragua's domestic problems may have repercussions in Honduras. That is our concern.

[Bocos] Fortunately, some things have changed, including the ones you just mentioned in Spain. Mr President, I was referring to a communications by the U.S. Embassy in Honduras that messages between Libya and Nicaragua have been intercepted. These messages were aimed at coordinating some kind of campaign of terrorist attacks in Honduras.

[Azcona] We are indeed concerned about this. We realize that possibility exists. That fellow from Libya must be stopped. It is one thing that he be against the United States and totally another that his fanaticism lead him to provoke a war that I believe the Soviet Union -- or any other country -- will not support. However, we are concerned about having problems over here.

[Bocos] Up close, is the Nicaraguan experience -- as the Reagan administration claims -- a beachhead of the Soviet Union, a stronghold of communist expansionism in the area?

[Azcona] Yes, I believe that is the case. Nicaragua's arsenal is all imported from the Soviet Union. Commander Ortega claims he has not spent a single penny on arms. We have estimated Nicaragua's arsenal to be worth more than $1 billion. Why would the Soviet Union give Nicaragua arms free of charge? No one gives things to someone else without an underlying purpose.

[Bocos] Are you concerned, sir, about the theory espoused by Marxist classical literature and recently referred to by President Reagan that says that the road to victory goes through Mexico -- consequently also through Honduras?

[Azcona] Road to victory?

[Bocos] That is correct.

[Azcona] Victory for whom?

[Bocos] It is an axiom found in classical Marxist-Leninist theory. President Reagan made a reference to it in one of his speeches. Surely he meant that the Nicaraguan situation has geopolitical connotations due to its proximity to the United States.

[Azcona] That might be the intention, but it will not be easy to carry out. There is not much room here for that kind of penetration. However, as I said before, we are concerned because we have social problems that are not easy to solve overnight. We have serious economic problems. If there is -- let us say -- fertile ground for a Marxist penetration, if people can be found to support it, we will not underestimate the people's democratic attitude, while our administration will attempt to respect social justice to the extent possible. This way we will make things harder for a communist penetration.

[Bocos] Mr President, various Latin American sectors are demanding that Latin America's problems be resolved by the Latin Americans. Reports issued today indicate that Presidents Alfonsin and Lusinchi issued a joint statement that reads as follows: Latin America's political solutions cannot be the object of foreign arrangements that respond to the interests of the world's superpowers. Latin American solutions for Latin America's problems.

[Azcona] I fully agree. I signed a document like it. I agree with having solidarity in renegotiating the foreign debt and in getting better prices for the products we export. I have said this a thousand times. I have told international financing organizations -- such as the World Bank, the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank -- and everyone that our countries have been unfairly treated because prices have been set on the products we export, prices which are constantly deteriorating, while the prices on what we import are increasing. This is not just the case with the United States. The only developed country with which we have a favorable balance of trade is the United States. With Japan the balance of trade is unfavorable, and so is it with Europe. I would not say that only the United States has exploited the Latin American countries. We have been exploited by every international power to which we have to sell 100 bags of coffee to be able to buy one tiny vehicle. We have to send one bag of cocoa or one of sugar for them to send us a little box of chocolate. I fully agree with all Latin American goverments and those of any other part of the world, of countries that export raw materials and import manufactured goods from countries that make the profit.

[Bocos] Is the Honduran president receiving any aid from Spain?

[Azcona] Yes, we have and are still receiving aid from Spain. We appreciate its technical aid and its grants. We are also receiving aid from the EEC. When I talk like this, I do not talk as a defender of the United States and accuser of the European countries or Japan. No, on the contrary, what I am trying to say is that we have to be fair in judging. Everybody is complaining about the United States, but at the time of truth, we side with the United States. But what do we do? In France, Mitterrand won, but it did not leave NATO. In Spain, Franco died, but it was not allowed to join NATO. Then came the transition government under Suarez and it joined NATO. Next, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party won, which is in power, and it has not left NATO. What is more, the Spanish Government has defended Spain's membership in NATO. As for Mitterrand, I do not think that his relations with the United States are too good.

Meanwhile, they would like us to follow the same path as Nicaragua in a confrontation with the United States, which we are not going to do because there is no reason for us to do such things. Now, it is not true that we are lackeys, that they are going to come here, or that when the U.S. ambassador calls me at my office I go running to his office. Whenever he wishes he can come to the Government House, where I receive him as I receive other ambassadors, always respecting nations' sovereignty and dignity, despite what they say to the contrary. The people who know me, know that I do not kneel before anyone.

[Bocos] We are glad to have this talk with you. Could you explain to us, in terms of your political mission, what will be Central America's immediate future and what could happen in the next years in this region affected by violence?

[Azcona] Well, let me tell you this, I do not think anything is going to happen to Honduras, whether the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries is approved or not. If the $100 million is not approved, that is the problem of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and Mr Reagan. If the $100 million is approved, that is not Honduras' problem either. We suppose that the counterrevolutionaries are going to fight inside Nicaragua and that they are going to get support from the Nicaraguan people, because when you have freedoms suppressed, economic problems, and you have to stand in line to get supplies, you can always set ideology aside. Whichever is the situation, I think Nicaragua is the one that is going to have problems. On several occasions I have told the Nicaraguan president that he has at his fingertips the solution to the Nicaraguan problem and that we do not have any ill feelings toward the Sandinist government of Nicaragua and that we are not going to be the ones to overthrow it. However, he should live up to what he promised at the OAS -- without this meaning a return to the Somozist system nor to any similar to that. At the OAS He promised freedom of expression, freedom of the press, political freedom, and to reduce the country's military forces.

We are ready at any moment to sign the Contadora peace plan. We have said this many times. Once we sign the Contadora peace plan, all the soldiers and U.S. military advisers will be out of Honduras in 24 hours. Therefore, who has the solution at his fingertips? The Sandinist government has the solution at its fingertips. We are not asking for anything out of this world. Mixed economy, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom to meet, and freedom of decision -- because people should not be compelled to join neighborhood committees and other similar organizations -- are basically the demands being made. The Nicaraguan president, not the Honduran Government, has the solution at his fingertips. In our country we respect all freedoms. Any newsman who wants to criticize the president can do so because we are not going to have here press censorship or anything like that.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON CONTRAS, LIBYA BOMBING, CONTADORA

PA201758 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1639 GMT 20 Apr 86

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Daniel Ortega has said that U.S. military advisers helping the contras are already in Honduran territory. Last night Ortega took part in an assembly of Sandinist labor leaders at a state coffee plantation south of Managua. President Ortega said Washington has already sent to Honduras U.S. military advisers who, according to unnamed U.S. official spokesmen, "are CIA agents who serve as liaison to the contras."

The Nicaraguan president, after insisting that they are "military advisers," said that in the same way the White House is "mobilizing" increasingly large numbers of "Green Berets" to support the anti-Sandinists. Daniel Ortega reported a campaign launched in the United States to create the image that Nicaragua promotes terrorist acts. Ortega said that after the bombing of Libya on Tuesday, the U.S. Government launched a campaign to make the U.S. people believe that Nicaragua is a threat to U.S. security.

"The United States is trying to sell the idea that operations to kill U.S. soldiers in Honduras and El Salvador are being planned in Nicaragua," the Sandinist leader said. Ortega added: "Those are only campaigns to create an unfavorable atmosphere for Nicaragua, so as to blame us for what happens to U.S. soldiers or helicopters."

Ortega said that Nicaragua is running the risk of being bombed like Libya, because the Sandinist soldiers have orders to fire at the "Yankee mercenaries" who cross the border. The Nicaraguan president said: "If they are going to use the deaths of soldiers or the downing of helicopters in the border area as a pretext to bomb us or to intervene in Nicaragua, well then, we are running that risk." "If for that reason (U.S. soldiers' deaths) they bomb us or invade us, we will face the situation, because the Yankees are not untouchable, and orders have been given to fire at them," Ortega said.

Ortega spoke to the leaders of agricultural, industrial, and service workers. He was accompanied by Vice President Sergio Ramirez. The Nicaraguan president reaffirmed that Nicaragua will not sign the document for peace and cooperation drafted by the Contadora Group until the United States ends its aggression against that country. "If there is no security, if the threats remain, if we have to fight a war, the document cannot be signed, nor can it be implemented, because first peace must be attained," the top Nicaraguan leader said.

BORGE RESPONDS TO CHARGE OF LIBYAN SUPPORT

PA181438 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Interior Minister and Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez has categorically denied that the Libyan Government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has delivered $400 million for terrorist activities. Speaking during a ceremony to dedicate a modern hospital for the people of Puerto Cabezas in northern Zelaya, the interior minister said Libya lent $100 million to Nicaragua, and that no weapons have been sent from Libya to our country. We have been accused of being a terrorist base of the Libyans. Does this mean that if the U.S. Government takes upon itself the right to bomb another country because presumably there is terrorism, then it could also bomb Managua or Puerto Cabezas? Commander Borge asked.

Interior Minister and Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge rejected President Reagan's charges to the effect that Libya gave $400 million and weapons to Nicaragua in order to attack the United States. Speaking to approximately 100 Miskitos in Puerto Cabezas, northern Zelaya, Commander Borge said Reagan is now accusing us of being a Libyan base in the area to justify an attack against Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] It is said that the Libyans sent us $400 million and weapons. I wish it were true that they had given us $400 million. Libya has lent Nicaragua $100 million. No weapons have been sent from Libya to Nicaragua. Then it is alleged they have given us weapons and $400 million to attack the United States. Now, as before, we have been accused of being terrorists. It is charged that Nicaragua is a terrorist base of the Libyans. Does this mean that if the U.S. Government takes upon itself the right to bomb another country because there is terrorism in that country, it is going to bomb Managua or Puerto Cabezas, just like it bombed Tripoli and Benghazi?

Who has given the U.S. Government the right, we wonder. Who has given the U.S. Government the right to determine what is terrorism and what is not terrorism? Terrorism can be explained, that is, state terrorism, when a country carries out specific actions in other countries. We are certainly not going to encourage terrorism inside Nicaragua.

If we were terrorists, we would have to carry out terrorism in the United States, Central America, or any other country.

How many actions of terrorism have we carried out in any Central American country?

How many Sandinist bombs have exploded in the White House, in Washington, New York, or any other U.S. city? How many U.S. citizens have we ordered murdered in any part of the world? How many assassination plots to murder Mr Reagan have we prepared? What are Nicaragua's terrorist plans?

Meanwhile, the U.S. Government says that Libya -- which has already been the target of bombings -- and Nicaragua are terrorist countries, among others. It says that to defend itself, the United States is carrying out reprisal actions against other countries, and it has started these actions with Libya. The United States has tried to condition the minds of the U.S. people to believe that we are terrorists. It has already been said one million times who the terrorists are in the world.

Who has killed Nicaraguans? None other than those who use the weapons that the United States has delivered to the counterrevolutionaries. How many plots have we organized in Nicaragua to murder U.S. citizens in [word indistinct]? However, it has been proven a thousand and one times in a most explicit and open manner that the United States is organizing a war to murder Nicaraguans.

It is unbelievable that the entire world does not reject more this savage, primitive, and brutal reasoning of the U.S. Government. Sometimes, we feel ashamed of the weakness, hesitations -- I was going to say another word, but I will not say it -- of many governments in the world who do not strongly protest the brutal crimes of the U.S. Government. [applause] [end recording]

Commander Borge also requested the creation of a bilateral commission between Honduras and Nicaragua in order to create a demilitarized zone and establish peace along the Coco River.

[Begin recording] We propose the creation of a peace zone, and there must be a Honduran-Nicaraguan bilateral commission in order to establish a demilitarized area in this region that will bring peace to the Coco River. We are concerned over the war in that area, not because it endangers the Nicaraguan revolution, but because it jeopardizes the survival of the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Garifa cultures, that are part of our culture and heritage. [end recording]

BARRICADA VIEWS TIMING OF U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA181816 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 3

[By Monica Zalaquett]

[Text] While the U.S. Congress was debating yesterday the way to continue maintaining the counterrevolutionaries, who are sowing terror among the Nicaraguan population, modern U.S. fighter planes were attacking civilian targets in Libyan cities under the presidential pretext of avenging "international terrorism." Coincidence? Of course not. In addition to carrying out a plan drafted by the Reagan administration to destroy the Libyan revolution, the action was aimed at showing the world that force will be used at any moment without taking allies or future consequences into consideration, as John Buchanan, of the U.S. Center for Defense Information, said.

This is a clear sign for Nicaragua, the world, and the Congress itself, which is submerged in a power game in which the Nicaraguan card seemed to be favoring the Democrats, who were quickly gaining support for their proposals to finance the counterrevolution. [sentence as published]

The moment chosen by Reagan to attack Libya was a clever move in an attempt to change the negative correlation of forces around its policy toward Nicaragua by linking the Sandinist revolution to that of Libya and involving us in its charges regarding "international terrorism," thus justifying the use of force against our country as well. The U.S. President himself told congressmen "that they must take note of the fact that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi extends direct aid to the Sandinist government of Managua," and a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Honduras told the press that "U.S. intelligence had detected communications between Libya and Nicaragua in which Tripoli ordered its agents in Managua to attack in Honduras."

Larry Brins, director of the Council for Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), pointed out that "the administration knew that its action (in Libya) would not be popular among North Americans, just as it knows that its policy toward Nicaragua has no support." He said this in reference to the effect of Reagan's attempt to weigh his policies toward Libya and Nicaragua.

Despite all efforts, the Congress apparently did not believe too much in this forced situation, because yesterday it rejected the Republican proposal to obtain $100 million for the mercenaries without delay. Given that international reaction, including that of U.S. allies, was unexpectedly harsh against the criminal attack on Libya, we can assume that it had a bearing on the vote on Nicaragua.

In fact, while several European allies yesterday complained that the position of the EEC and NATO itself had not been taken into consideration, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz said he was "disappointed" by the attitude of U.S. allies. The U.S. people, who have strongly rejected the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries and have even been repressed by the police, did not hesitate yesterday to protest against the terrorist attack on Libya. Apparently the attempt to discredit Nicaragua by likening it to the Libyan revolution is backfiring against the Reagan administration.

Having become aware of constant international terrorist attacks against the Nicaraguan people, U.S. citizens and the world's people in general are increasingly concerned about U.S. meddling in the Central American region than about unproven charges of Libyan terrorist acts against European countries. It is paradoxical that although Germany was the site of the most recent attack Reagan blamed on Libya, the government of that country criticized the U.S. bombing.

Amid increasing worldwide concern over the crazy aggression against Libya and its consequences, warmongering tendencies tend to be countered even by hesitant sectors, with a stronger rejection of all kinds of interventionism. Things could turn around for Reagan, because simply put, he is playing with the future of peace.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES EPS-COSTA RICA CLASH

PA182035 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1948 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Sources in the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry have denied a report that clashes broke out between troops of the EPS and the Costa Rican Civil Guard several hours ago.

A ministry spokesman, whom the daily BARRICADA failed to identify in an item it published today, said that the EPS has not reported to the Foreign Ministry the outbreak of any clash over the past several hours.

The source remarked that the report, which originated in Costa Rica, could be a scheme by the counterrevolutionary groups operating out of that country to damage relations between the two states. Reports issued in San Jose yesterday indicated that on Wednesday there were clashes that lasted approximately 15 minutes near the border town of Los Chiles.

ARDE LEADER SAYS STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE

PA170139 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] San Jose, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- ARDE will continue the struggle against the Sandinist government despite the setback U.S. President Ronald Reagan suffered in his effort to supply them with $100 million in military and humanitarian aid, a rebel spokesman said in San Jose today.

Jose Davila, the rebel organization's top political leader, told ACAN-EFE today that the U.S. Congress' decision to reject the President's request "will not force us to take a step backward, it will only encourage us to continue the struggle."

Today the House of Representatives rejected the immediate granting of $100 million to the anti-Sandinist forces as proposed by President Reagan.

ARDE's political leader pointed out that within the next few days the political directorate of the organization will meet to consider a few initiatives aimed at achieving a bipartisan consensus between U.S. Democrats and Republicans that will lead to an agreement on the aid for the contras.

Davila also pointed out that ARDE will continue advocating a political solution to the Nicaraguan crisis, for which it will need the aid the U.S. President is trying to attain from Congress.

With this rejection "the possibility of a political solution is disappearing," because the FSLN, the governing party in Nicaragua, "will defeat the rebels and this would be a military solution," Davila said. "Those who are opposed to the aid are very mistaken because they believe they are favoring a political solution," he added. Davila said "we are observing a parliamentarian war in the United States and suffering our own war where Nicaraguans are dying."

UN DELEGATE ACCUSES U.S. OF 'STATE TERRORISM'

PA190259 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] At the United Nations today Nicaragua accused the United States of practicing the most shameless state terrorism in Libya and warned countries of the international community that they could well be attacked in the near future under the pretext of combatting international terrorism. Speaking at the Security Council, Nicaraguan delegate Arelys Bellorini said that the United States used against Libya arguments similar to those raised against her country, which has reasons of its own to condemn this new act of aggression. She referred to the U.S. air strike this week. Bellorini said: The perpetrator of this aggression is a big power, whose foreign policy is based on threats and the use of force, a power that has appointed itself legislator, prosecutor, judge, and policeman of the actions of sovereign states.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. 'PROPAGANDA' CAMPAIGN

PA190052 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 86

["Analysis of Misinformation" commentary by Onofre Guevara]

[Text] Pro-U.S. propaganda brands as terrorist any revolutionary movement in the world, of any leaning, which opposes U.S. expansionism and tries to guide a country on the path of independence and the social development of its people. This is well-known by the peoples, as they are permanently forced to deal with the misinformation campaigns carried out under the argument of terrorism. In addition to the effects that this preaching against terrorism -- which is used as a pretext for attack -- can have on the countries and their citizens, in the long run it has turned out that the promoters of this falseness are also victims of their own fallacy. They are creating a sense of insecurity and a climate of hysteria, psychosis, and terrorism among themselves.

An ACAN-EFE dispatch datelined Tegucigalpa reflects this hysteria, which in addition to provoking more tension and threats against Nicaragua, shows how Hondurans and their authorities are beginning to live under a climate of uncertainty, adopting unsound measures, and exacerbating their own fears. Part of the dispatch reads: "The CIA, Interpol, and the Honduran police have increased vigilance in all ports, to control a possible entrance of Arab terrorists. Official spokesmen who asked not to be identified said that the ports, customs offices, and airports are subject to close vigilance to prevent the possibility that terrorists -- using false documents -- may try to enter Honduras. The security measures, which include foreign agents of various nationalities discreetly posted, have been taken following last night's U.S. air attack against Libya." The dispatch recalls Libya's threat against the countries where the Yankees have military bases, and admits that in Central America, these bases only exist in Honduras and Panama.

In addition, the dispatch revealed a very significant fact, stating that "the U.S. Embassy, through Michael O'Brien, director of the famous USIS in Tegucigalpa, announced tight security measures last week." Here, the information and security services appear as one, doing the same job, which shows the importance given to misinformation. In other words, the information and security agencies are at the same level. Therefore, it is not surprising that U.S. Embassy spokesmen, who at the same time perform propaganda for the USIS, have launched an ominous threat against Nicaragua through the Honduran and foreign media, taking advantage of the terrorist psychosis they themselves have created: "A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Tegucigalpa told local media sources that U.S. intelligence had detected communications between Libya and Nicaragua, in which Tripoli ordered its agents in Managua to stage attacks in Honduras." Its own hysteria has led them to make dangerous assertions about this country, similar to the one they are taking against Libya. Furthermore, the situation is being used to justify a witch-hunt against Honduran citizens opposed to their country's complicity with the attacks against the Nicaraguan people.

The next paragraph of the same dispatch notes the beginning of that witch-hunt, which apparently will not exclude anyone: "In addition, the Honduran Police suspect that the Libyans may have important links with Honduran subversive groups and managers of enterprises whose directors have reportedly visited Libya on several occasions. It is easy to make connections with international terrorists and to obtain financial support for enterprises serving as a facade for subversive activities, and we know from several Hondurans that this has been done under the pretext of visiting Europe on pleasure trips." Apparently, not even street vendors [buhoneros] are going to be excluded from this witch-hunt.

CARRION VIEWS U.S. CONTRA AID VOTE, LIBYA ATTACK

PA191944 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 8

[Text] The Sandinist government said on Wednesday that despite the "confusion" in the U.S. Congress during the debates on the aid for the counterrevolutionaries, the Reagan administration is certain to obtain the military aid to destroy the revolution. President Daniel Ortega appointed Carlos Carrion, political secretary of the Sandinist Front, to comment on the preliminary results of the voting in the U.S. House of Representatives, which he described as "confusing" and "criminal."

At a "rally" at the "Plaza of the Nonaligned," in front of the government palace, Carrion, who is also delegate of the Presidency, said he "is certain Reagan will find a way to get the U.S. Congress to approve the aid for the contras." While the House of Representatives today eliminated the possibility of the immediate delivery of the $100 million to the counterrevolutionaries, the Sandinist leader said: "We are not interested in that discussion."

Carlos Carrion asserted that "the truth is that they want to destroy our revolution." "In view of that," Carrion said, "we have to be more united, because Reagan will try other maneuvers to obtain that economic aid for the counterrevolutionaries."

Carlos Carrion, who is also a member of the Sandinist assembly, the organ of consultation of the FSLN National Directorate, stressed that what is being discussed in the U.S. Congress is the "life of our people, how they are going to kill our people, whether they are to be shot in the head or in the heart."

Daniel Ortega's spokesman said the United States wants "to humiliate and subjugate the Nicaraguan people." "The United States says that it has to destroy the Nicaraguan Government; therefore, we have to keep an eye on Reagan's maneuvers," the Sandinist political leader said.

Carrion said that in the discussion in the U.S. Congress "there is no referee. That is a battle. There are no intermediate or halfway positions there." Carrion explained that the interest in "destroying the revolution was translated into the Libyan bombing, which was meant to be a warning to Nicaragua." "They want to intimidate us," Carrion pointed out, "and they could bomb us at any time." Carrion told the people who attended the rally that Reagan "wants to make us kneel, but he will not succeed because we will be more united now." Here, "we not only have to condemn the criminal attack on Libya, but the Nicaraguan people must mobilize and resist any U.S. attack," Carrion added.

Carrion said that the Sandinists will not flee, or hide in embassies. Others will do that. They want us to do what Reagan dictates. Carrion said that the nine Sandinists commanders will not hide in the event of a surprise attack; instead, "they will be in the front lines along with their people to face the imperialist aggression."

PSC LEADERS SEE 'NO POLITICAL SOLUTION'

PA191418 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] During a roundtable held in Guatemala City on the democratic outlook of Nicaragua's political process, the leaders of the opposition Social Christian Party of Nicaragua [PSC], said that for the time being there is no political solution in sight, because the Sandinist regime, having a totalitarian Marxist-Leninist trend, is determined not to create any situation that could jeopardize the system.

The PSC leaders said that at the moment there is no space within the state structure for the political parties because of repression, intimidation, and imprisonment of party leaders. They added that the Sandinists are not interested in peace, all they want is to be left alone, so they can do as they please in their country.

The Social Christians will launch a campaign to obtain a cease-fire. They will also demand free elections, a general amnesty, oversight by international organizations, and lifting of the state of emergency.

Regarding the Contadora peace plan which Nicaragua has refused to sign until the U.S. aggression stops, the PSC leaders, Agustin Jarquin, Roger Guevara, and Armando Zambrano, said that everything has to do with Nicaragua lacking the political will, and that the same thing will happen with the Central American parliament -- where delegations of existing parliaments will be in attendance -- which will be undermined by the Sandinists because they will deal with the situation as they please.

The Social Christian leaders said that four factors are preventing a political solution in Nicaragua. The first is the biased information aimed at praising the Sandinists, because the international news agencies are not reporting the truth about Nicaragua. In addition, a censorship of the press exists. Another factor is that the United States is playing the main role against the regime; and, not only in Nicaragua, but in Latin America there is an anti-U.S. attitude which is favorable to the Sandinists. And last is the lack of international support; the country does not even have toilet tissue, nor tooth paste, but it does have paper for the high-class Sandinists' magazines. The Boy Scouts are about to disappear because this organization lacks the means to continue operating.

In relation to the open town meetings where the constitution will be discussed, the PSC leaders said these councils lack prestige, and only represent a propaganda instrument for the Marxist government, and not as a guarantee for the Nicaraguan people's rights. As long as the people do not stand up for their rights, Sandinism will continue in power.

Agustin Jarquin, leader of the PSC, rejected the statements which Carlos Nunez, commander of the revolution, made in Guatemala during the Latin American Parliament meeting to the effect that Nicaragua can defeat a U.S. armed aggression. Jarquin said that his country does not have the political, military, or organizational capacity to face an attack from the United States, despite the huge arsenal it possesses. In addition to this, he said, we do not know if the Sandinists would receive additional international support, because we could run into the same situation as in Grenada and recently in Libya. Both countries were attacked by the United States, and no communist country came to their aid.

Jarquin added that the possibilities of a U.S. attack on Nicaragua are remote at this moment, because it would have a costly political effect on the Reagan administration, which has been involved in other international conflicts -- something which has left it in a very difficult situation to launch an attack on Nicaragua.

The possibilities of a direct military intervention in Nicaragua will increase and become more possible if the Sandinist government assumes a more radical attitude and if it does not return to the original government plan and does not open the way to a real democracy without obstacles, Jarquin said. He also mentioned the intention of forming groups with Nicaraguans residing abroad to support the civic struggle which will begin in Nicaragua.

U.S. ACTIONS INSPIRED STRONGER DEFENSE EFFORTS

PA201641 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] GRANMA stated today that the action against Libya and the escalation of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua infuriate the Cuban people and inspire them to become militarily, economically, and ideologically stronger.

In an editorial on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Playa Giron victory, the newspaper states that Cuba is ready to make the United States pay a high price if it dares to attack. The official newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party states that the Giron victory showed that the Cuban revolution is irreversible, and that in this contemporary world, a small country can face up to imperialism and build a new and just society.

VIOLENT REPRISALS FOR U.S. LIBYAN RAID NOTED

FL181852 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Station commentary by Juan Hernandez]

[Text] The first responses to the treacherous acts of state terrorism against the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi are becoming evident today. They are dramatic and fatal.

According to reports, U.S. citizens will be evacuated from Sudan because someone shot a diplomatic official in Khartoum. An unidentified group bombed the homes of U.S. Marines in Tunis and the bodies of three British citizens were found in Beirut.

These are acts that create victims as innocent as those who will be buried today by the Libyan people. They were assassinated during the U.S. Air Force attack at the beginning of the week.

Indiscriminate violence has been unleashed. Revolutionary violence is another thing. It is an organized and conscious response to oppression and exploitation of the people, social inequality, or racism and attempts to change a social-political regime that subjugates the majority of the people.

The right to use revolutionary violence has been traditionally recognized, and recently, in a document approved by the holy congregation, the Vatican legitimized the use of force in those cases where the goal is to overthrow a regime or dictatorship that has subjugated the people for an extended length of time.

Individual terrorism cannot be approved as anarchistic actions have not been approved in the past, and state terrorism simply cannot be approved. One nation does not have the right or moral justification to use their military strength to intimidate other countries and create innocent victims.

Reagan's order to bomb Libya has isolated the United States from the entire world which has condemned the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi. Those who disregard public opinion profoundly offend the peoples. Those who attack and kill innocent civilians cannot expect smiles in response.

These acts of state terrorism generate acts that cause the death of innocent people.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING VIEWS U.S. RAID

FL181331 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the UN Security Council continued its discussion on the U.S. terrorist aggression against Libya, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in which he says the action constitutes a flagrant violation of the norms of international relations and the UN Charter.

Shevardnadze's letter indicated that U.S. warplane bombings against Libyan cities has created an exceptionally serious situation and that international relations could become disorganized because of it.

During the two sessions held at the UN Security Council, the international community expressed great concern over the threat the Reagan government's brutal terrorist action aginst a United Nations member state represents. It was stressed that the Security Council should act more effectively in cases of conflict and solve them swiftly. It was also said that the U.S. Government, as a permanent member of the council, has a special responsibility in preserving international peace and safety. The Security Council received a resolution draft which strongly condemns the armed attack conducted by the U.S. Government against Libya. However, according to diplomatic sources, although it was agreed that the United States attacked Libya, the UN Security Council will not condemn either party but will attempt to solve the problem through diplomatic and political means.

U.S. HOUSE 'MANEUVER' ON CONTRA BILL REVIEWED

PA181244 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] While debates on the $100 million demanded by Ronald Reagan for the former Somozist guardsmen ended in disappointment for the Yankee President in Washington, in Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that his country finds itself forced to spend more than half of its budget on defense.

The U.S. House of Representatives was the scene of a Republican maneuver to avoid a complete defeat of the Reagan plan when a vast majority decided to limit itself to giving $27 million to the alleged victims of the dirty war that Washington is waging.

The attitude of the Republican legislators in supporting this bill and momentarily abandoning the demand for $100 million was due to the fact that this legislative body had already decided to include the presidential request in a foreign aid package scheduled to be discussed in the next few weeks as an addition to the fiscal budget for the next year.

To some Republican legislators, there still remains the hope of obtaining unhindered approval of the $100 million demanded by Reagan during subsequent debates at the House without the already mentioned condition. The wheelings and dealings of the U.S. representatives, which are illegal and immoral in essence, coincided with Ortega's statements about the high price imposed on Nicaragua by the war unleashed by Washington. A total of 20,000 Nicaraguans have died at the hands of the former Somozist guardsmen, 5,000 have been wounded, and 250,000 have had to leave their homes for safer places, not counting, of course, the already mentioned defense expenditures, which heavily curtail economic and social programs.

At any rate, according to analysts, it is quite likely that Reagan will publicly keep at it even though his counterrevolutionary godsons will lack nothing because of the legislators' decision, as has happened during past 5 years of brutal aggression against Nicaragua.

TANA AWARDS CASTRO LIBERATORS, HEROES MEDAL

PA192112 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] President Fidel Castro was decorated here with the Liberators and Heroes of Our America medal, at the chief of state level, the highest order granted by the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA.

In the ceremony, TANA President Buillermo Toriello stressed that this is the first award with such a category granted by the organization and expressed recognition for the revolutionary path of the Cuban leader.

Expressing appreciation for the decoration, Castro referred to the history of the Cuban people and their struggles which, he noted, allowed their roots to prevail despite the opposition of colonialism and imperialism. In conclusion, he said that this recognition belongs to these people.

RAUL CASTRO CONGRATULATES TANK CORPS MEMBERS

FL182050 Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1803 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Army General and FAR Minister Raul Castro has congratulated the tank corps units -- powerful fists of steel -- that assaulted Playa Giron 25 years ago to give imperialism its first defeat in America. Raul's message was read at the military ceremony held at military unit 1011 in the western region of the country on the occasion of the celebration today of the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of Tank Corp Day.

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL WORKING MEETING HELD

FL142332 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] The 19th meeting of the Cosmic Meteorological Working Group of the Inter-Cosmic Program has begun at the headquarters of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Attending were delegations from the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, GDR, and Cuba to discuss the 1986-87 plan cooperative plan.

The meeting is being held in Cuba for the first time and will study the development of the areas of research in this meteorological specialty.

BARBADOS

ST JOHN SAYS ATTACK ON LIBYA 'EXCESSIVE'

FL182010 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 18, CANA -- Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John was quoted as saying he thought excessive force was used in the U.S. air assault on Tripoli. St John, who is in New York, told THE NATION newspaper that the United States could have used other means to respond to alleged international terrorist acts by Libya. One has to question whether the retaliatory methods were not excessive in light of the fact that other methods could have been used with the same objectives. The issue of terrorism was raised when St John met with American shipping executives yesterday to woo more cruise liners to Barbados. Every detailed aspect of the arrangement relating to the safety of air/sea programme needs to be gone into with a view to ensuring that such (terrorist) incidents do not arise in this area of the Caribbean, the Barbados leader said.

GRENADA

BLAIZE PRAISES REAGAN, RECALLS GRENADA MISSION

FL191232 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 86

[By Richard Simon]

[Text] Leaders of several Caribbean nations have expressed their views on the U.S. raid on Libya. James Mitchell, prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, expressed regret over the action while Bernard St John, the prime minister of Barbados, criticized the U.S. attack.

However, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize of Grenada, in a nation-wide speech last night, expressed his support of the United States raid on Libya. Blaize has come out in support of President Reagan's military action against Libya. Prime Minister Blaize, speaking in his weekly radio broadcast, compared President Reagan's courage last week to his determination to intervene in Grenada in 1983. Prime Minister Blaize said peace was threatened by state-supported terrorism.

[Begin Blaize recording] State-supported terrorism cannot be tolerated if peace is to be brought to this world and United States President Reagan has shown courage again like he showed 2 1/2 years ago in taking action that will make him be the [word indistinct] of neighboring eyes. [end recording] The Grenada prime minister said because of President Reagan's courage he was able to tackle a problem which the rest of the world was shying away from.

Opposition Condemns Attack

FL191532 Bridgetown CANA in English 1509 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 19, CANA -- Grenada's Prime Minister Herbert Blaize supports the American air raid on Libya but his left-wing opponents condemn the action -- both comparing it to the U.S.-led invasion of this Caribbean island in 1983. The opposition Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) described the bombing as a vulgar violation of international law by Washington. The Reagan administration is now clearly being revealed as an international bandit because having invaded tiny Grenada it is feeding its aggressive designs around the world, it said in a statement.

The Reagan regime now has the blood of babies on its hands and we call upon states and peoples to condemn this Rambo policy of the United States and o take collective measures to defend the peace and security of the world against state terrorism, it added.

In his weekly radio broadcast last night, Blaize said that state-supported terrorism which the Reagan Administration has been accusing Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of promoting cannot be tolerated if peace is to be accomplished. The Grenadian leader praised Reagan for his determination and courage in tackling what he said was a problem on behalf of the rest of the world. We say God bless President Reagan.

Blaize's 16-month old government is a close ally of the United States in the Caribbean following Washington's decision to send American troops into the island two-and-a-half years ago to put down a leftist junta and to help restore constitutional government. Blaize likened the bombing of Tripoli to the invasion of Grenada and said that the courage shown by Reagan must make the American leader the sinecure of neighbouring eyes.

FORMER PRESIDENTS WELCOMED; COUP RUMORS CIRCULATE

PA200341 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0122 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Apr (EFE) -- General Henri Namphy, president of the Haitian Civilian and Military Council, who had been out of public view for over a week, reappeared on Thursday on Haitian television welcoming former President Paul Magloire, who had been in exile for over 30 years. Namphy's presence during a reception for General Magloire quelled rumors about his health and speculations that Duvalierist forces were preparing a coup d'etat. The two former presidents, popular leader Daniel Fignole, who had also been in exile for 29 years, and Magloire were invited to an official reception held on Thursday at the National Palace. Fignole asked to be excused for health reasons.

Although Fignole and Magloire lived in New York during their respective exiles, the former always felt that General Magloire was "an enemy of the Haitian people".

According to political observers, with this meeting, Namphy was seeking to create the impression that the two major leaders who are respected by the people are united under his mandate. Speculations circulate in the streets of Port-au-Prince, together with rumors that the Army is not united under Namphy's leadership. The shadow of a Duvalierist coup d'etat is looming over this city. Leaflets were distributed on the streets of the capital warning the citizens of the dangers of a Duvalierist coup d'etat against General Namphy.

ST LUCIA

FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDS TO ATTACK ON LIBYA

FL182020 Bridgetown CANA in English 2011 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 18, CANA - St Lucia says the international community needs to find universally-acceptable methods to fight terrorism. The country's Foreign Ministry was responding for the first time since Tuesday's American air strike against Libya, which Washington says sponsors international terrorism.

The ministry said St Lucia was gravely concerned that international terrorism had become such a prominent feature of international affairs. Consequently, the St Lucia Government believes that the recent United States air strike against Libya must necessarily be viewed from the context of this aberration in international relations, it stated. The ministry said it was regrettable that the American course of action had to be followed and St Lucia was concerned at the spiral of violence that would ensue in the Mediterranean region and elsewhere.

ST VINCENT

MITCHELL SAYS CABINET SPLIT ON U.S. ATTACK

FL181528 Bridgetown CANA in English 1442 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 18, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell said last night he regretted this week's U.S. military strikes against Libya and urged a solution to the Palestinian problem with he said was at the core of international terrorism. Mitchell, in a radio and television broadcast, said he was speaking in a personal capacity as the cabinet was split on the Libyan raid, with some members feeling the U.S. move was quite right. He said the Palestinians, deprived of a homeland, were a desperate people, and desperate men seek desperate solutions.

I hope that we will try and do something to bring peace in the Middle East to give the Palestinians a homeland, Mitchell said, adding: I do not for a moment want anyone to think that we do not believe in the right of Israel to exist. We support the right of Israel to exist; and we support the right of the Palestinians to a homeland, and we pray that peace will be brought. The U.S. raid on Libya was in retaliation at the north African country's alleged support for a series of terrorist acts, which claimed the lives of several Americans in the last few years. Mitchell said St Vincent and the Grenadines does not condone violence.

MARCOS, OFFERS $65 MILLION FOR ASYLUM

FL181522 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 18, CANA -- Ousted Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos made an informal offer of U.S. 65 million dollars to the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines to grant him asylum, Prime Minister James Mitchell said here last night. Mitchell said the money was intended to give St Vincent its first international airport, a project seen by his administraion as key to any economic take-off.

The disclosures in a radio and television address came amid public criticism of the prime ministers published stance of the issue, which was that he would have accepted Marcos once the price was right and the population approved. It looks as though to get international airports in the Caribbean, you either have to go to the communists as Grenada did or you have to go to the fascists, he said. I hope that everyone understands what's involved in those decisions.

On local opposition to the proposal, Mitchell said he was delighted to know that public opinion had stood on high moral ground. We, the government, are prepared to go along with that, he said. Mitchell said the Marcos proposal should now be considered here. Marcos, ousted in a civilian-based revolt nearly two months ago, is in exile in Hawaii.

Asylum Denied

FL191146 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent says former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos has been denied asylum in this Caribbean nation. Mr Mitchell says Marcos offered to pay $65 million for asylum.

MITCHELL DISCUSSES ORANGE HILL DEVELOPMENT

FL181534 Bridgetown CANA in English 1401 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Kingstown, St Bincent, April 18, CANA -- The St Vincent and the Grenadines Government last night unveiled a EC 30 million dollar (1 EC doll; 37 cents U.S.) comprehensive development programme for the country's largest single agricultural estate compulsorily acquired a year ago. The scheme for the large Orange Hill estate calls for the developme of 2,000 acres of land into 390 five-acre farms in three phases, the development of a forested area of the estate into a public recreational park, and the conversion of the estate houses into guest houses by local business people.

In a 45-minute radio and television address, Prime Minister Mitchell said centrepiece of the plan, drawn up by consultants of the Orga isation of American States (OAS), would be the allocation of land to Vincentian nationals for farming and housing purposes. Priority will be given in the allocation of the farms to persons living and working on the estate..., Mitchell said.

The land will be given out with an option to purchase after a period of time. We propose to make the lands available (ON) leasehold for 25 years with an option to purchase after 10 years if certain perfromance criteria are met. The house lots will be on a free-hold basis. Mitchell said government was hoping to have the first 190 farms ready to be taken up by early next year.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

TRADE UNION COUNCIL CONDEMNS ATTACK ON LIBYA

FL182012 Bridgetown CANA in English 1942 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 18, CANA -- The Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) condemned the U.S. air raid on Libya calling it an act of barbarism. A release from the CPTU, one of the two main labour organisations here, said that President Ronald Reagan was yet to produce concrete evidence on Libya's involvement in terrorist acts. Even (if) evidence is found, the irresponsible and barbaric reaction by this super power nation cannot and will never be the answer to terrorsim, said CPTU a largely left-wing grouping.

Indeed the killing of inocent Libyan children and other persons in the still of the night is a gross indictment against the war-like policies of the U.S. president. The CPTU said that although Britain and the United States say they are deeply concerned about state terrorism, they were refusing to take action against what the greatest state terrorist of all times in the Botha government of South Africa.
[sentence as received]

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ARIAS ON U.S. LIBYA STRIKE, C.A. SITUATION

PA181524 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1330 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez has said in Rio de Janeiro that the U.S. bombing of Libyan cities may increase world tension and threaten peace. We condemn terrorism. Of course, we believe that terrorism is one of the greatest threats in the world now. However, we also worry about the attempt to try to fight terrorism with acts such as the attack on Libya, Arias said at a news conference held during his tour of South America. He concluded his 3-day visit to Brazil and left for Buenos Aires, Argentina. Later he will go to Peru, Uruguay, and Bolivia.

The president-elect said that the Costa Rican Government is trying to make Costa Rica's neutrality effective in Central American conflicts and to prevent the use of Costa Rican territory by irregular troops that oppose established governments. He said that he is optimistic about the possibility of the signing of the Contadora peace document at the meeting of the five Central American states to be held soon. However, he warned that to sign the document and secure the compliance of its provisions, Nicaragua must [words indistinct] make some concessions [words indistinct].

He also thanked Brazilians for their support and stressed the need for the achievement of peace in Central America. He also noted that Nicaragua and El Salvador are spending 60 percent of their budgets in arms, thus making the development of the region difficult. He stressed that under his administration Costa Rica will adopt a position of neutrality in the face of the military conflicts affecting the subcontinent. He emphasized: We will not permit Costa Rica to be used as a base for war activities. Costa Rica is not a problem for Central America; Central America is a problem for Costa Rica, Arias said, adding: We object to Soviet and Cuban aid to rebels in the region; however, we also object to military aid from the United States to countries in the area.

PORTO ALEGRE PROTESTORS MARCH TO U.S. CONSULATE

PY190350 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0321 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Anonymous telephone calls, demanding vengeance against the Americans for the attacks against Tripoli and Benghazi, are not limited to the United States. They continued through the world over the past few hours. Demonstrations against President Ronald Reagan's action continued everywhere. In Porto Alegre, dozens of people participated in a march through the streets of the capital of Rio Grande do Sul state, marching to the U.S. consulate, where they delivered a letter of protest to U.S. consul (George Lennon). The Rio Grande do Sul people were shouting: Reagan; terrorist, murderer, imperialist.

AUTOMATION, COMPUTER SECTOR PLAN APPROVED

PY181758 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil will not give in to pressure to change or reorient its computer sector policy. This statement was made by President Jose Sarney on 17 April, when he approved the national plan for the automation and computer sector. Sarney said that both as a citizen and as a politician, he will continue to support the plan.

[Begin Sarney recording] On this important occasion, I will reiterate something I have already stated before: I feel personally committed to the national computer sector policy. This plan has set the operational guidelines for the computer sector law. I participated in designing this policy and, now that I am the president, I cannot give in to pressures to change it or reorient it along a line that is contrary to Brazilian interests. [end recording]

The president added that the computer field is essential for all sectors.

AERONAUTICS PROJECT WITH ARGENTINA BEGINS

PY191751 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Brasilia -- Brazil and Argentina are developing their first joint aeronautics project. The two countries are building the EMB-123, a plane for civil and military purposes that will replace the Bandeirantes built by Embaer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. Aeronautics Minister Otavio Moreira Lima has said that the first EMB-123's can be on the market in 1990.

Enthusiastic about the project, the minister presented it to the Air Force High Command on 17 April, and said that it can "ensure the steady development of the Brazilian industry." The minister also talked with reporters, to whom he emphasized the political importance of the project. The EMB-123 will promote integration between Argentina and Brazil, he said. "It is an exceptional project, not only from a political but also from an economic and technological viewpoint," the minister stressed. He also praised the Argentine technological potential.

The prototypes, to be designed and built over a 4-year period, will cost $292 million. This cost will be defrayed as follows: 1/3 by Argentina (its factory belongs to the Air Force), 1/3 by the Brazilian Aeronautics Ministry, and 1/3 by Embaer. According to the minister, 400 planes will be built under the project and the first units will be delivered in 1990. He added that Embaer and its Argentine counterpart will purchase dozens of EMB-123's and that the rest will be sold on the foreign market.

According to a note released by the Brazlian Aeronautics Ministry on 17 April, the plane will be pressurized, have room for 19 passengers, and its speed will be slightly slower than that of a jet. The EMB-123 will be a turboprop that will be suitable for several missions, such as air photogrammetry and light cargo transportation. The note stated that the new planes will replace the fleet of Bandeirantes, which by the time the EMB-123 is ready, will have been in operation for over 20 years. The new plane will be suitable for operating for regional routes and in "the world's smaller airports."

PANEL RECOMMENDS NUCLEAR PACT WITH ARGENTINA

PY181805 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazon Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil and Argentina may set up a mechanism for mutual inspection of their nuclear programs. This is one of the proposals that the Nuclear Program Evaluation Committee put forward to President Jose Sarney on 17 April. The propposal was justified on the grounds that Brazil and Argentina have made considerable progress in this field. The committee also concluded that Brazil must adopt a nuclear program to develop its own technology by the year 2000.

Committee President Jose Israel (Walker) has said that our hydroelectric potential will meet our energy demand only until 2010, at most.

[Begin (Walker) recording] The first conclusion the committee reached is that the Brazilian nuclear program is facing serious difficulties, despite the fact that it is vital for meeting our electric power demands over the next few decades. Based on Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc] data, the committee concluded that our electric power demand will surpass our hydroelectric potential by 2005 or 2010, and that it will be necessary to count on electric power generated with coal or with nuclear energy. [end recording]

The committee also emphasized the need to nationalize the nuclear research program. To this end, the National Nuclear Energy Council will have to be divided into two sections: one to deal exclusively with [word indistinct] and development, and the other to take care of the regulations, supervision, and authorizations affecting the companies of the sector.

ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA BUY TUCANO PLANES

PY171245 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 86 p 5

[Excerpt] Vale do Paraiba -- Last week, the Argentine Government signed a contract with Brazil for the purchase of 44 Tucano T-27 military training aircraft. These planes are manufactured by the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer), in Sao Jose dos Campos, 97 km northwest of Sao Paulo. Venezuela recently bought 30 Tucano T-27 planes with the option for another 14. The final purchase documents will be signed in the next few days. The price of each Tucano is $1.2 million on the international market. President Jose Sarney started the negotiations with Argentina last November when he visited the country to dedicate the Tancredo Neves Bridge [at Igauzu, a town on Brazilian-Argentine border]. At that time, Argentine Air Force Chief of Staff Ernesto Crespo conveyed to President Sarney his interest in purchasing Tucano planes and AMX subsonic fighter-bombers. This was the beginning of the negotiations.

SOVIET EMBASSY INQUIRES ABOUT MISSING SCIENTIST

PY161505 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry yesterday reported that the Soviet Embassy has again contacted the Brazilian Government regarding the disappearance of Soviet scientist Vladimir Halturin on 26 March in Belem, Parana State. The Federal Police search for the Soviet scientist has been unsuccessful so far.

FUNARO DISCUSSES REDUCED INTEREST RATES

PY191617 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 0300 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Brazil will save $140 million in spread payments, which will amount to less than $350 million. This information was released by Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, who spoke at the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation in Recife. Funaro said that this year Brazil will pay a spread [preceding word in English] of only 1.25 percent, instead of 2.2 percent, which was the spread paid in 1985. The minister added that Brazil is the only country in the world that could negotiate such rates without being subjected to the traditional IMF programs. This is the result of the serious manner in which the government is handling its accounts and of the changes introduced through the economic package.

REACTION TO U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA NOTED

Envoy to U.S. Comments

PY171313 Santiago Radio Chilean in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to Washington Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has categorically supported the U.S. attacks on Tripoli. The government, however, has not yet released an official statement on the matter. Reporter Jose Francisco Contreras will give further details. Jose Francisco, if the government has not yet released an opinion on the U.S.-Libyan conflict, how does Foreign Minister Jaime Del Valle explain the remarks made by Errazuriz?

[Begin recording] [Contreras] The foreign minister has not explained why the Chilean ambassador to Washington made those remarks. He said, however, that they were personal. In his remarks, Ambassador Errazuriz stated that the Libyan terrorists received a well-deserved punishment. He also expressed support for the U.S. decision to attack Tripoli, saying that the United States has made use of its legitimate right of self-defense. This is what the foreign minister said about the ambassador's remarks:

[Del Valle] The government has not released any official statement, and I can tell you that the Foreign Ministry has not yet released its opinion. I have told you that the Foreign Ministry is still studying all the information. Therefore, that is just the ambassador's personal opinion.

[Contreras] The foreign minister also held a meeting with an advisory group to coordinate the preparations for the next meeting with his Peruvian counterpart, Alan Wagner, on 25 May in Santiago. Del Valle stated that the pending points of the 1929 Treaty with Peru are a priority matter, and that for this reason they are studying the postponement of the meeting of the joint commission for cooperation and Peruvian-Chilean trade exchange. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Statement

PY181810 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has reiterated that the government strongly rejects terrorism. Foreign Ministry spokesman Pablo Valdes has read an official statement on the events in the Mediterranean.

[Begin Valdes recording] In the face of the events in the Mediterranean, which have shaken the world, the Foreign Ministry hereby reiterates that the Chilean Government strongly rejects terrorism, which has claimed the lives of innocent people, jeopardizing the very foundations of society with its (?disguised) and cowardly actions. The events that have occurred show that it is imperative for the civilized nations of the world to urgently adopt and agree upon concrete and specific measures to fight and eliminate terrorism, so that they will not have to take stronger action. [end recording]

Temuco Youths Burn U.S. Flag

PY191852 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Young Palestinians and university students have burned a U.S. flag and read statements in support of Libya in downtown Temuco, 700 km south of Santiago. It was reported today that after burning the flag, the demonstrators erected barricades and clashed with the Carabineros. No one was reported arrested. The demonstration was directed by Jorge Silhi, secretary of the Palestine information office in Chile. Silhi and other Palestine youths residing in Temuco, a city of 200,000 with a large Arab population, were waving their typical "kuffiyah." The demonstration was sponsored by the Arab youths of Temuco.

LA TERCERA DE LA HORA Editorial

PY181411 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 38

[Editorial: "Conflict in the Mediterranean"]

[Text] It is quite true that the strengthening of the prestige and power of a country depends on the preservation of its credibility, hence the decision by President Reagan to carry out punitive action if Al-Qadhdhafi's regime attacked U.S. objectives or citizens. In attacking Tripoli, the U.S. President is running a calculated risk, because he has sufficient information about the reaction of the EEC, which had adopted a position rejecting such an action when visited by roving Ambassador Vernon Walters, and also about the attitude that would be adopted by the Arab countries. It should be recalled that during the Gulf of Sidra incident even pro-Western countries like Jordan emphasized through their media that a U.S. military action against any Arab country would be an outrage against the "Arab nation" as a whole.

Although at this stage in the events there is no clear picture of the situation, everything indicates that immediate peace appears as a pragmatic necessity for regional and international security. Long-term projections of the conflict are unpredictable, and they could easily end up favoring Al-Qadhdhafi's aspiration to play the role of a military messiah in the Islamic world. The "Al-Islam al-Sha'bi," or the Muslim fundamentalism emerging among impoverished Arabs, could possibly find in Al-Qadhdhafi a leader for their "jihad" or holy war, against the United States, Israel, and the moderate states ruled by conservative administrations known as the "Al-Islam al-Rasmi."

It is known that socialism, Marxism, liberalism, Western capitalism, and regional expressions like Nasserism and Ba'athism a adopted by the Islamic world have not provided satisfactory answers for the Arab countries, which remain dependent on Western technology for their development. Consequently, the Arab world is increasingly returning to its historical identity as represented by the Islamic political and religious system, in which Al-Qadhdhafi seems to want to play a role.

Also, a war escalation in the already overcharged Middle East atmosphere might force the Soviet Union to get involved in this conflict for the sole purpose of providing political help, according to Gorbachev's recent statements to the president of Algeria. Although the latest developments have awakened among Europeans the fear of Libyan retaliations, it is no less true that the international community's incapacity to react appropriately to terrorism is the fundamental factor that has prompted the United States to react as it did.

Therefore, besides persistently making appeals for peace after the U.S. action, the civilized nations must energetically react to the irrational terrorist violence unleashed by Al-Qadhdhafi.

470 STUDENTS ARRESTED DURING PROTESTS

PY181618 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The police have arrested 470 students during various incidents at several university facilities that were instigated by well-known professional political agitators. The final count released by the Carabineros indicates that those arrested, both men and women, are being held at several police stations. Most of them will be released after their backgrounds and addresses have been verified.

The police report says that 270 people were arrested at the Metropolitan University. They were taken to the 18th Carabineros station. The police also arrested 162 people in the area surrounding the Science School of the University of Chile on Macul and Grecia Avenues. Those arrested were taken to the 19th Carabineros station. In conclusion, the official police report says that 38 people were arrested when students were evicted from the Economic School.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT -- Luis Larrain, former Chilean ambassador to Syria, has been appointed ambassador to Syria, has been appointed ambassador to Kuwait. A Foreign Ministry communique states that Ambassador Luis Larrain presented his credentials to Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as Sabah on 9 April. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 12 Apr p 5 PY]

SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- During a ceremony at the La Moneda Palace yesterday, President Augusto Pinochet received the credentials of Ridzwan Dzafir, the first Singapore ambassador to Chile. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Apr p C3 PY]

PRC COMMISSION MEETS -- Colonel Ramon Valdes, the under secretary of foreign relations, has opened the Third Chilean-PRC Scientific and Technological Mixed Commission Meeting in Santiago as part of an agreement signed by the two countries 5 years ago. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr PY]

PRESIDENT: 'GOVERNMENT REPUDIATES TERRORISM'

PA192219 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1920 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Quito, 19 April (DPA) -- President Leon Febres Cordero today affirmed that terrorism "is a crime against humanity" and "an attack on peace," in what was the first comment from the Ecuadoran Government on the conflict between the United States and Libya. Febres Cordero said: "The Ecuadoran Government repudiates terrorism." He cut off the exchange with reporters by saying: "Our position is already well known."

ARMY COMMANDER REJECTS CONSPIRACY CHARGE

PA201343 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] According to information disseminated by Channel 10 yesterday, General Jorge Asanza, general commander of the Army, described the remarks by his counterpart, Laercio Almeida, as the result of personal resentment. Asanza announced that he will make declarations this week which will leave his position clear. He rejected Almeida's charge that he had plotted against the government and that he wanted to overthrow President Leon Febres Cordero. Almeida's remarks created anxiety among the citizens.

MILITARY COMMAND COMMUNIQUE DEFENDS CONSTITUTION

PA220126 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0014 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Quito, 21 Apr (REUTER) -- The top military command, including the chief of the Army, who was accused of conspiracy, signed a proclamation today stating that they will not permit the Constitution to be violated in Ecuador or the civilian government to be destabilized. The military communique addressed to the country and broadcast early tonight was issued after Army Commander Jorge Asanza was accused of conspiring against democracy and his removal was requested. Asanza signed the communique in his dual role as Army Commanding General and chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, together with Jorge Andrade, Air Force commander, and Fernando Alfaro, Navy commander.

"The Armed Forces want to tell the country that it will not permit a break of the constitutional system or the destabilization of the government that is legally directing the Republic: We are and shall always be guardians of the law," the communique stated.

Last weekend the chief of military engineers, Laercio Almeida, said at a public military ceremony that Asanza had supported a partial movement of the troops 1 month ago destined to subvert the constitutional order, without changing his conduct, because subsequently he announced his intention to "overthrow the president."

For the chief of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, Wilfrido Lucero, the impasse shows that "President Leon Febres Cordero does not control the Armed Forces" following the counterinsurgency staged in March by Air Force Commander Frank Vargas Pazzos, who sought to overthrow the civilian government. Military sources indicated that General Almeida will be punished for publicly discussing an internal matter, while Defense Minister Medardo Salazar told newsmen that the charge was personal and had no bearing on the constitutional or judicial organizations of the Republic. He added that in the powerful land Army ranks "there is total tranquillity."

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MRTA CLAIMS BOMBING AT U.S. AMBASSADOR'S HOME

PY212229 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2114 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (EFE) -- The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) today released a communique to the media claiming responsibility for this morning's attack against the U.S. ambassador's residence in Lima. The attack caused some damage. According to the communique the Justo Candia Commando parked a car loaded with 60 kg of dynamite, which the police estimated to be in the form of 30 sticks of dynamite, outside the residence. The explosion, which occurred 6 minutes after Lima's curfew ended, made a 2-meter hole in the wall surrounding the U.S. ambassador's residence and broke the windows of nearby houses.

According to the MRTA communique the attack "is an act of legitimate repudiation of the U.S. Government and of solidarity with the Libyan people." Attached to the communique was a letter addressed to the U.S. ambassador in Lima, David Jordan, saying that the attack "was aimed not at the American people" but at the administration of President Ronald Reagan. The letter was signed by the MRTA national leadership.

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS ARRIVES IN LIMA FOR VISIT

PY211711 Paris AFP in Spanish 0709 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican Ambassador Edgar Sanchez has reported that Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias arrived in Lima at 2310 (0410 GMT) on 20 April for a 20-hour visit to Peru. On 21 April Arias will have breakfast with President Alan Garcia and Foreign Minister Allan Wagner at Government House. He will also meet with Senate President Luis Alberto Sanchez and the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Luis Negreiros, at the congressional building.

Arias has visited Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, the nations that along with Peru make up the Contadora Support Group, which is seeking peace in Central America. Arias at the last minute cancelled a short visit to Bolivia. Arias will depart Lima for Panama just after noon on 21 April.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER APPOINTED -- Journalist Mario Castro Arenas was appointed adviser to the Presidency and took office on 25 March. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Mar p A4 PY]

COLOMBIAN DRUG RING DISMANTLED -- Vice Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla Campos has disclosed that the Civil Guard dismantled a Colombian drug ring based in the middle of the Peruvian Amazon Jungle. During the operation security forces seized 235 kg of drugs and some radio equipment. The operation was carried out in Alto Pampayacu, San Martin Department. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Apr p 9 PY]

FURTHER ON VISIT BY VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI

Joint Statement Issued

PY160253 Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Uruguayan and Venezuelan Presidents Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Jaime Lusinchi reaffirmed here today absolute respect for international law and their desire to contribute to any effort aimed at putting an end to regional conflicts and encouraging detente and development.

In the joint declaration signed at the end of the 3-day visit that the Venezuelan chief executive paid to Uruguay, the two presidents agreed on rejecting all kinds of racial, sexual or religious discrimination and apartheid most especially, calling the latter a systematic violation of human rights. They emphasized that respect for these rights and for basic freedoms is an essential component of democracy and agreed to set up a system for consultation so as to help strengthen and expand democratic institutions in Latin America.

The two presidents said that developing countries are entitled to play their rightful role in the making of decisions on matters that affect them. With regard to the Central American crisis they stressed the imperative need for a stronger political will to achieve mutual understanding and a relaxation of regional tensions through dialogue and negotiations. Lusinchi and Sanguinetti urgently called upon all states with interests in and ties to Central American countries to help bring about understanding and to refrain from undertaking actions capable of thwarting this objective. Venezuela and Uruguay reiterated their commitment to support the Contadora Group and the countries backing it, and stated their willingness to participate in the Commission for Observation, Prevention and Inspection on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The two presidents also expressed their serious concern over the worldwide increase in terrorism.

Lusinchi and Sanguinetti went on to address the problem of America's foreign debt voicing their concern over the decline of the prices of raw materials for export, protectionism, the subsidiary policies and the high cost of servicing the foreign debt. They also called upon industrialized countries to provide suitable and fair solutions because the persistence of these problems worsen the situation in developing countries and jeopardizes their stability. The two presidents emphasized that the economies of Latin American countries have an urgent need for growth and stated that the current transfer of funds abroad must be reversed. The two presidents decided to establish a mechanism for consultation at the level of foreign ministries to discuss matters of common interest, which has been named the Uruguayan-Venezuelan Coordinating Commission. This commission will evaluate bilateral relations, and hold talks and negotiations in the fields of trade, finance, culture, agriculture, science, and technology.

Lusinchi Press Conference

PY170137 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0123 GMT 16 Apr 86

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Apr (EFE) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today stated in Uruguay that the United States and the USSR sponsor the arms race in Central America and that the Contadora Group will have to make "the powers leave the region" in order to obtain peace.

In a press conference, he added that "the United States is intervening in Central America, but the USSR is too, and that no one can deny." He stressed that the Central American problem is global, that the two powers "are trying to establish their area of influence," and that "that is the truth as we see it."

Lusinchi denied that "the Contadora Group is a catalog of good intentions" and said that "we are the mediators of goodwill and can be nothing else; we have no means to take actions." He emphasized that in Central America "we can observe the same power play that we see in Afghanistan, in Africa, and in the Middle East. "Contadora has no leverage other than its goodwill."

Lusinchi recognized that "Latin American peoples have grown more conscious" in this regard, and there is concern also in Europe and inside the United States. "But," he stressed, "in many cases this concern is only verbal" and, referring to the European powers he said that "they are entirely unable to contribute with any concrete assistance; there is a lack of authenticity, a hypocrisy that really makes the situation more complicated."

Nevertheless, he voiced his optimism about the success of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama) and the Contadora Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay). In his opinion the reason for this success will be simple enough: fear will act as a balance between the superpowers. He also insisted that "the two superpowers will realize that there is no possibility of solving the Central American crisis through military intervention; it can only be done through political negotiations."

Later on, Lusinchi told the reporters that "a meeting of Latin American presidents might be convened," but added that "a presidential meeting cannot run the risk of failure." In his opinion, there are difficulties because "some are not acting in a sincere manner, and are looking at facts from their very particular point of view." As examples of this, he cited the Central American nations "and -- why not say it -- the attitude of certain countries that I will not name regarding the foreign debt."

The Venezuelan president answered a question about the role of his country in OPEC by saying that Venezuela will not support any oil embargo and that its position is very clear. During the long press conference Lusinchi also mentioned the bilateral agreements reached with Uruguayan President Julic Maria Sanguinetti and stressed that the agreements that have been signed will create an "unprecedented" flow of trade "between our two countries."

SANGUINETTI, ORTEGA DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA

PY190157 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Apr (AFP) -- According to diplomatic sources in Montevideo today, a telephone conversation last weekend between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his Uruguayan counterpart Julio Sanguinetti gave rise to hopes of the signing of the Contadora Peace Act on 6 June.

During the telephone conversation, Ortega told Sanguinetti of his desire to continue immediately the decisive negotiation phases over the Central American crisis, which reached a stalemate after the last meeting held by the mediating group composed of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela.

Sources disclosed that Ortega told Sanguinetti that Nicaragua would allegedly be willing to subject the proposal to a referendum but not sign it, a decision which the Uruguayan Government considered encouraging nevertheless. The sources added that the conversation held by the two chiefs of state represented, in the Uruguayan authorities' opinion, progress because Ortega showed signs of advancing from a position that he had taken, which had brought the negotiations to a standstill.

COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICE BOMBED IN MONTEVIDEO

PY171918 Paris AFP in Spanish 1332 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Apr (AFP) -- A medium-sized bomb went off early this morning at an office of the Uruguayan Communist Party (PCU) but caused no injuries, PCU spokesmen said. The PCU spokesmen said the bomb damaged the plaster of a PCU office located in the outskirts of Montevideo. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Today is the 14th anniversary of the death of eight PCU members in a confusing incident with Army and intelligence personnel.

'Command' Takes Responsibility

PY190108 Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Apr (AFP) -- In a telephone call to AFP's Montevideo office, a self-styled Captain Busconi Direct Action Command today claimed responsibility for the bomb attack against an office of the PCU. The medium-sized bomb exploded during the early morning hours of 18 April, and it destroyed the wall plaster of the office. There were no victims.

The call to AFP's office was made by an unidentified male, who said: Write down the message I am going to give you: The Captain Busconi Direct Action Command claims responsibility for the bomb that exploded at the PCU's 20th Precinct office. A local radio station received a similar call, but the message concluded with the words: Next time, the attack will be directed against the PCU's headquarters.

Army Captain Washington Busconi died on 17 April 1972 from wounds he received during a bloody incident in front of the office that was attacked on 18 April, in which eight communist militants also died.

Government Condemns Attack

PY180331 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Interior Under Secretary Raul Lago told Radio Carve that the government repudiates and condemns the attack against an office of the PCU located on the corner of Agraciada and Valentin Gomez Streets.

[Begin Lagos recording] The first thing I have to say is these types of incidents cause a very deep displeasure and indignation, as they obviously have the intention of destabilizing the democratic process. Above all, we like to be very clear about this, that is the minister and myself, we are in the ministry to try to create an image, maybe [words indistinct] of the police. Above all we wish to highlight the [word indistinct] of the police. [End recording]

'JACKAL' TERRORIST REPORTEDLY TO SABOTAGE CANAL

PA211601 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 1

[Special report for EL SIGLO by Boris Barrios]

[Text] Chicago, 20 April — It was learned here yesterday from high political and military circles close to the White House that one of the most wanted terrorists of the world, Venezuelan citizen Carlcs Ilich Ramirez, is in Panama hired to sabotage Panama Canal installations. The sources close to the White House reported that the terrorist also known as "the jackal" has been ordered by the Libyan Government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to operate in Panamanian territory and specifically against Panama Canal installations, whose security is jointly controlled by the Panamanian and U.S. Governments. The report adds that the Libyan Government considers the Panamanian territory where the canal is situated one of the strategic points controlled by the U.S. Government and therefore the main target of a terrorist attack against the United States.

The report on the whereabouts of the feared terrorist Carlos Ilich on Panamanian soil has prompted many Panamanians residing in the United States to call Panama, and especially U.S. citizens who have relatives working in the Panama Canal area. All this has created a collective hysteria among U.S. citizens with relatives in the Panama Canal area, the report added.

Reports coming from various circles close to the White House on the presence of the terrorist Carlos Ilich Ramirez in Panama were confirmed yesterday here in Panama City by people who said they have received telephone calls from Washington and Chicago from friends and relatives saying that the reports on Ilich Ramirez, son of a prominent Venezuelan industrialist, are circulating in the U.S. media.

EL SIGLO reporters have driven near the canal and noticed that security has been intensified, with everyone entering the canal area on a daily basis, even if with special passes, being carefully watched.

MONEY LAUNDERING REPORT WORRIES LOCAL BANKS

PA202234 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] The banking sector's atmosphere has been sensitive during the last few days following what has been defined as a campaign aimed at destroying the prestige of the Banco Cafetero, Inc., and Tower Bank International, Inc. The banks are mentioned as linked with the laundering of dollars which are a product of drug trafficking in the United States. The Panamanian bankers in general are extremely concerned because this type of news abroad affects the normal activities in Panama's financial center. Statements from the Banking Association and the commission headed by Mario de Diego are expected next week.

COSTA RICA

MONGE ON MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR HABIB

PA212316 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Philip Habib, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, yesterday met privately with President Luis Alberto Monge. The president had this to say about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Monge] As you know, ever since U.S. President Ronald Reagan decided to have a roving ambassador to deal with Central American problems, these ambassadors have visited us frequently to exchange views and information. These visits are very helpful because we keep them up to date on our stance or news, and we are, in turn, informed of the White House and the Department of State's positions. We talked about what will happen in the end with the Contadora document, reactions in the area to the Esquipulas meeting, the meeting of the vice presidents of the four countries which was held here, and the attendance of many presidents at our presidential inauguration. Ambassador Habib will be with the U.S. delegation. So, in these talks no agreements were reached. Instead, we exchanged views and brought each other up to date.

[Unidentified reporter] Was Ambassador Habib pleased over the [word indistinct] which the four democratic and pluralist countries are planning to have in order to achieve a Central American solution to area problems?

[Monge] Yes, he was very pleased. He conveyed President Reagan's personal view favoring an understanding among the four Central American democracies to draft a common strategy and face the existing economic and social problems, especially the problems regarding the drop in trade exchange among the four nations. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE CRITICIZES CALL FOR 24 APRIL STOPPAGE

PA212122 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 3

[Excerpts] President Duarte described as senseless and illogical a UNTS [National Unity of Salvadoran Workers] and Fenape [National Federation of Small Businesses] call to all its member organizations to stage a work stoppage from 0800 to 1200 on Thursday, 24 April. He added that the people will decide whether they will actually paralyze the country.

Upon being consulted by EL MUNDO about this move, Duarte said that the president is responsible to the entire nation, not to pressure groups. I think that it is logical that organizations voice their opinion; that they say whatever they wish; that is, we are living in a democracy, and they can freely voice their opinion; the state will analyze their opinions and take them into consideration. Duarte also said that such a measure is an incorrect notion of what freedom and government should be. I cannot do anything about this but the people will decide whether that sector will paralyze the country as a result of that absurd request, Duarte added.

Meanwhile, the Assembly ratified a permit to allow Duarte to leave the country on 8 May for Costa Rica and later Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil and return on 24 May to participate in the president's summit in Esquipulas, Guatemala. The Assembly granted him that permit.

REBEL UNITS CLAIM 15 CASUALTIES IN USULUTAN

PA211453 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Our units inflicted 15 casualties on the puppet Army in southeastern El Salvador. Attention, this is the report from Usulutan.

At 0900 on Sunday, 20 April a guerrilla unit of the Rafael Arce Zablah guerrilla brigade's southern group staged the "Companeros Froilan and Edwin Forever Until Victory" operation. This operation was a successful annihilation ambush during which mines, rifles, and hand grenades were used against units of the ill-named Atonal Battalion and the criminal National Police. This ambush took place in Lomas de los Gonzalez canton, only 2 km from the city of Santiago de Maria in Usulutan Department. The clash lasted 30 minutes, after which part of the Army unit fled in total disarray.

Attention, attention: The initial reports sent to Radio Venceremos indicate that we inflicted 15 casualties on the troops of the ill-named Atonal Battalion and the National Police of Santiago de Maria. On our part, no problems were reported. With this action we sought to honor the memory of the revolutionary lives of our companeros Froilan and Edwin, who were outstanding revolutionaries until the last day of their lives. With this last report, the total of casualties inflicted on the enemy this week that has ended is 106.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CHIEF PLEDGES 'TOTAL' SUPPORT TO CEREZO

PA212101 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE 21 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] The Army will be in charge of security operations to be carried out in Esquipulas for the presidential summit, General Hector Alejandro Gramajo has announced. Gen Gramajo, chief of staff of national defense, made the announcement during the Military Police anniversary celebrations. The Armed Forces guarantee national security, and more so when a president is visiting our country, as he is entitled to be safeguarded by the Guatemalan Army.

All security forces will be working at Esquipulas, but all under the Army's orders to better coordinate all activities, the high-ranking officer said. As for the support of the Armed Forces to President Cerezo, it is total and absolute, as we must abide by the Constitution. As he has been elected by the people, we will support all of his decisions, and fully support him against any group that may oppose any of his measures in a disorderly fashion, Gramajo said.

VICE PRESIDENT CONFIRMS ESQUIPULAS SUMMIT IN MAY

PA212010 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle has returned to the country and said that the summit of Central American and Panamanian presidents will definitely be held in late May in Esquipulas, Chiquimula. The vice president returned to the country following a 3-day trip to Costa Rica and met with the press at the Air Force Protocol Room.

He said that Nicaragua has confirmed it will attend the meeting. Furthermore, he added, a meeting of vice presidents is scheduled to be held on 2 and 3 May, in Guatemala City. The vice presidents of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica will attend this meeting. This meeting is to discuss the Central American parliament.

CEREZO SPEAKS ON ECONOMIC REORGANIZATION PLAN

PA172300 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0402 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] I am the president of the Republic; your friend the president who is here to discuss the current status of the concerted effort.

As you recall, we proposed an economic reorganization plan. We said that this plan aims to bring order to the national economy. To bring order means to correct some defects affecting our economy in the immediate past. First, they were constantly working against the interest of Guatemalans, the price of basic products for housewives, and the daily coexistence of families and the solution of their basic problems.

Second, do you remember there was great speculation about the dollar-quetzal exchange? That speculation led to a constant decrease in the value of the quetzal in relation to the dollar. This in turn led to an increase in prices of by-products and also brought what is called a recession to our national economy. Recession means a slowdown in economic activity and this affects an already great national economic problem: unemployment. There is a large number of unemployed Guatemalans; a large number of Guatemalans who do not have enough money to live on due to price increases. In addition, there are many other problems because there are no funds to invest in infrastructure and service programs for all of you. That is why there is no potable water, there is not enough electricity in various parts of the country; in sum, we face many problems.

Why is there such (?disorder) in the national economy? On the one hand, because some bad Guatemalans speculated at the expense of all others. They preferred to enrich themselves [words indistinct] even at the expense of all others; there is also a very high level of corruption. Of course, you know what corruption means. It means that public officials and some private businessmen agree to evade taxes, to become involved with contraband, and of course, to keep money belonging to the Guatemalan people instead of using it to benefit Guatemalans.

And finally, there is much inefficiency in the use of resources. For example, a great amount of resources is used in the Guatemalan capital, but resources are not used in the countryside to repair roads, upgrade the peasants' living conditions, and to upgrade public services such as potable water, health, and education. Now, all these problems must be corrected. However, my friends, as you know, 30 years of economic chaos cannot be corrected in 3 months of government. Despite this, the economic reorganization plan aims to bring order during this year. To start that plan, we requested 126 days. During my electoral campaign I told you that I needed at least 126 days in order to start government activities that would begin to solve the main problems of the Guatemalans. In those 126 days we did not constantly report to you on the activities of the government of the Republic, because reporting such information over the television and radio would have consumed money that we would like to spend on other things that would benefit the people. We do not want to make the mistakes of other governments that spent large sums of money on publicity to favor some of their friends but that in practice did not benefit the population in any way. Allow me to tell you what we have done in the past 3 months to allow you to learn about the many things we are doing to start the economic reorganization plan.

First, dear friends, as you have read in the press and heard over the radio, these have been many public demonstrations on the street making demands of the government and the private sector, or making general demands. These demonstrations have been carried out within the law with the absolute respect of the government of the Republic. [Sentence indistinct] We are living in democracy and liberty. The government is determined to ensure that these rights of the Guatemalans will be respected and exercised at all means.

Second, my dear friends, Guatemalans have noticed that the cost of living has greatly increased. That is not a problem caused by the current government. You must realize that this is the result of the economic disorder prevailing for many years. However, we are interested in correcting those economic disorders and curbing exaggerated price increases. That is why we sent to the Congress of the Republic a draft bill to establish what we call an economic crime. An economic crime is committed by a person who increases the prices of all goods subsidized by the government that are necessary for the nourishment and daily use of Guatemalans. If we set the price of corn, for example, and a businessman or government official sells it at a higher price, he is committing a crime. Those people will be punished by the government of the Republic. We are also contemplating a draft bill to be presented to the Congress to establish a ceiling on the revenues of people who trade with or use those goods that are basic to the population.

Why do we want to do this? We want to implement this measure this year only, because we are experiencing an economic emergency. At this moment, while we start the economic reorganization plan, we must prevent the excessive enrichment of some at the expense of the [words indistinct] of other Guatemalans. We are presenting these draft bills, not because we want to meddle in the commercial activity of the private sector, but because we are forced to defend the interest of the majority.

In addition, we have asked merchants and other people not to raise prices in an uncontrolled and illogical way. The people will have to take definitive measures, with their government's support, in order to control those prices, and we will have to be more drastic than we would like to be.

In the third place, friends, we have begun to reduce the government's public expenditures. How have we done this? We have not decreased activities in any way. We have not retained a single cent to benefit government officials. I should mention some isolated cases. In Guatel [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise], for example, we will save 2 million quetzals this year in purchases of stationery alone. This stationery is for Guatel's everyday activities. We will increase Guatel's earnings. Last year this enterprise generated 100 million quetzals for the government in earnings and profits, and it will generate 15 million more quetzals for the government this year. Through the [words indistinct] percent alone, we will save about 2 million quetzals in the regular operation of the administration. Its revenues will increase, however, by 6 million quetzals.

Some enterprises were regarded as bankrupt, such as (?Plomerca), an enterprise handling maritime transportation in Guatemala. We received it with a 1 billion quetzal deficit. Now, we have lowered this deficit and saved more than (?1 million) quetzals, which will be used to improve the enterprises' activities. We have tripled the revenues of the customhouses and controlled the corruption and the contraband activities that normally occurred through these customhouses. This you know. Yet this is not enough. We will have to go on making changes in customhouses because contraband that affects the Guatemalans' interests continues to exist.

In addition, dear friends, and as I was telling you, we now have a reserve of $65 million for Guatemala's benefit. A few months ago we did not have a single cent, but had to pay $17 million that we did not have. In addition, we did not have money to pay for the [word indistinct] gasoline. All Guatemalans have realized that they no longer have to stand in line at gasoline stations and that we have not mentioned any shortage or lack of fuel because we have ensured a regular supply of fuel [words indistinct].

In addition, we have made progress in the solution of the security problem. We will initiate what we describe as a drive for the people's security next week. In this drive, we will be assisted by the Defense and Government Ministries, and the Guatemala City mayor's office and other similar offices. In cooperation with the people, the police will begin to reduce the number of daily current crimes against the Guatemalans' security and tranquillity. We will definitely have to take the Guatemalan Army, the national police, and all those government agencies into consideration because they can offer adequate protection so Guatemalan citizens can enjoy true security.

Yes, friends. Although we had offered to begin the [words indistinct] activities until after 126 days in order to implement the reorganization plan, the truth is that we have solved a great many problems. Last week, as you know, at least three great strikes occurred. Everybody thought a great problem existed in Guatemala and yet these strikes were all settled peacefully. The government made the right proposals and found the solutions. This was achieved through the understanding of the sectors affected by these problems. All this that happened last week shows that if the government has the answer and you Guatemalans have the understanding and the willingness to talk with the government, then we will not only solve the problems at hand, but we will bring about the development that will benefit all Guatemalans. My dear friends, (?the economic reorganization) will create more than 50,000 jobs directly stemming from state investments. The money exchange rate will be stabilized. This will permit the purchase of inputs for improved production and, of course and in addition to this, we will be able to obtain a sufficient amount of quetzals for us to invest in services infrastructures, particularly in the municipalities in the country's interior. You can also see the many efforts that we have made to assist small and medium-sized farmers. We are in the process of acquiring a large quantity of fertilizer that we will sell for a low price. This fertilizer, which was sold for 30 quetzals last year, will now be sold for 15 quetzals.

The city dwellers will perhaps wonder how this benefits them in Guatemala City. They are directly benefited because, if we lower the cost of inputs and fertilizers used by the peasants, then the price of the products that you will buy in the markets will also be lower. In addition, we plan to drastically lower the price of corn, beans, and rice. Later, the price of bread will also be lowered. How will we do this? We will import corn because we were left almost without a single pound of corn. We will sell this corn at a price that the people can pay, between 15 and 18 quetzals at the various (?markets) in Guatemala. This corn now sells for 28 or 30 quetzals per quintal and 28 or 30 cents a pound.

Guatemalans, we want to work for you. However, we keep telling you, my dear friends, that the only thing we can do do is create miracles. What we can do we have been doing. We have the capacity and the determination and, thank God, we rely on the Guatemalan's people's support and understanding. Progress has been made toward an agreement. I must admit that in the trade unions and those in charge of private enterprises, we have encountered willingness for dialogue.

If, in the course of this week, the opinion of other political parties can be considered, we will be able to present to the Congress of the Republic the bills that will allow us to implement the economic reorganization plan so that by the middle and the end of this year Guatemalans can see that this is truly a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Let's bear in mind that time is a fundamental factor. If we cannot do the things ahead of time, we should in practice....[changes thought] To build a house, one must have bricks. To have a corn plant, one must plant seeds and work hard. Thus, my dear friends, have trust and be calm. (?Soon) you will begin to see the effects of the work that the people's government does for the good of the people. Thank you very much for your understanding and support. We will continue to discuss with you people the problems that all of us must solve. Good night.

Comments on Plan, Libya

PA181507 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo said today that his government has managed to reconcile the interests of various sectors in relation to the economic reorganization plan his government is trying to implement. However, he admitted, there are still some disagreements on the tax issue. President Cerezo talked to newsmen this morning during a diplomatic ceremony held at the National Palace Banquet Hall, and they asked him about the economic reorganization bill.

[Begin recording] [Cerezo] We have been talking to various sectors. The government's commissions have met with industrialists and labor organization representatives to try to reach some agreement which will permit the implementation of the economic reorganization plan. Agreements have been reached on most issues and only the tax problem is still pending. The government is trying to obtain approximately 540 million quetzales to finance the social program. The private sector is insisting on a lower amount, about 340 million. We are trying to reach some agreement on the amount. I am sure we will reach an agreement, probably today. It has to be an amount which meets the government, the country and private sector's approval.

Regarding the labor sector, the critical issues were, in the first place, the need for the government to pass some bills to control the cost of living, and in second place, the wage policy. We are discussing these issues with private and labor sectors to establish a formula through which private and labor sectors can reach agreements on a minimum wage scale which will give private sector the opportunity to do something to improve the workers' living standard.

In relation to prices, you already know that the government has submitted a bill on prices and maximum profit to be made on sale of the family basket items, so as to prevent all form of speculation.

I hope that we can reach an agreement this week. We have received suggestions from political parties which we will try to incorporate into the economic reorganization plan. We want to give consideration to the proposals submitted by all sectors.

[Question] Is there any way to further reduce the exchange rate for exports [words indistinct]?

[Cerezo] We are planning to reduce it next year. It will be difficult to reduce it this year because although the quetzal has increased somewhat in value, approximately 50 cents, we still have to be cautious in what we do.

When I assumed the Presidency the country did not have one single penny. The monetary reserve was less than 17 million, and we still had to pay the oil bill. Now we have 65 million, but that is not enough, it is not at the optimum level we want. If everything turns out right, our currency will be worth twice as much, just as we are planning.

[Question] Do you have an estimate on the amount of oil sold? We haven't heard anything about the amount of dollars received from the sale of oil.

[Cerezo] I do not remember the exact amount, but the country's production was approximately 5,000 barrels daily. I think we can double our production in a short time. We have found some wells which are also producing 5,000 barrels daily. However, we do not know how long this will last. If it continues like that for the next 4 weeks then we can count on doubling our production by the end of the year.

[Question] The economic reorganization plan is a short-term plan. Does the government have a long-term plan to promote the country's economic development?

[Cerezo] Some of the policies to be implemented are outlined in the plan, which are mainly aimed at increasing domestic production, exporting a variety of products, maintaining costs at a reasonable level, obtaining the supplies we need, avoiding spending all of our money abroad, and balancing the budget with the tax reform we are going to implement. Perhaps by the end of next year we will be in a position to promote an agriculture industrial policy to increase our exports after we obtain better prices for our products. In general terms, this is what we are planning to do, in addition to the infrastructure investment policy. All this together should increase job opportunities and lessen inflation. One of the government's basic objectives is to improve Guatemalans' living conditions.

[Question] Concerning oil, you recently talked about an investigation and a dispute in Europe [words indistinct].

[Cerezo] The amount involved is not as much as was reported. The 100 million quetzals mentioned is a lottery [words indistinct]. The investigation is on the oil produced in the past and the amounts exported. There are two oil companies involved. When we are ready to take an action, we will go ahead. This could mean recovering some $200 million in cash, which could represent a substantial increase in our foreign currency reserves.

[Question indistinct]

Cerezo] It consists basically in reducing indirect taxes, which affect low and medium income sectors, and in increasing direct taxes. It also deals with a service tax system. Some of these services are provided by the state.

[Question] President Cerezo, what is the government's official position regarding the U.S.-Libyan conflict? Are we going to take security measures to protect U.S. enterprises as well as at the airport?

[Cerezo] These conflicts always require that we increase security measures. We are going to ask the people to bear with us, but we have to protect the people, especially after the rumors of a bomb in a plane. We would not like for Guatemala to be the target of terrorism, as other countries have been. We have to think about what we are going to do as a result of the action carried out by the United States. We are opposed to terrorism as a political instrument; it is irresponsible and unjust.

We are also highly concerned over any measures of force taken by a country, totally disregarding the mechanisms of international law. This could only increase the polarization of conflicts at international levels.

We are a peace-loving country. We prefer to solve our problems through understandings. We will set forth our position on this in due time. We will analyze the reasons President Reagan cited for making decision. Because of the threat of terrorism, we will have to take the necessary measures to protect Guatemalans from those who could bring instability and insecurity to our country. [end recording]

ARCHBISHOP SAYS CHURCH-GAM RELATIONS 'TENSE'

PA220331 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Msgr Prospero Penados del Barrio, archbishop of Guatemala City, has said that relations between the Mutual Support Group [GAM] and the Catholic Church became tense when the GAM occupied the Metropolitan Cathedral last year. Msgr Penados del Barrio said that it is impossible to speak to GAM leader Inez de Garcia, because in the midst of her grief she does not listen and only makes demands, ignoring the various positions that different people occupy in society.

In regard to the group's being denied permission to hold masses at the cathedral, Msgr Penados del Barrio said that the GAM has gone to the extreme of violent actions such as disobeying presidential orders not to occupy seats at the National Palace to demonstrate. The group's president, Inez de Garica, furthermore, made exaggerated statements in Europe regarding the violation of human rights in Guatemala, because human rights are violated not only in Guatemala but throughout the world. Msgr Penados del Barrio said finally that he understands the grief and suffering of the missing people's relatives, but he feels that investigation will not yield positive results.

ECONOMY MINISTER, GROUP RETURN FROM TAIWAN

PA170318 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Economic Minister Lizardo Sosa has returned from the Republic of China, accompanied by a group of Guatemalan industrialists. Sosa talks about what they achieved during their visit to the Republic of China:

[Begin recording] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of China early in February invited us to visit the Republic of China, and the Guatemalan Government accepted. I was given the honor of heading a delegation of approximately 50 Guatemalan industrialists, who decided to make the trip to find out the possibilities of buying machinery at reasonable prices for their industrial installations. Some got what they were looking for, and others are still negotiating the purchase of the machinery in which they are interested. [end recording]

The visit to the Republic of China served to strengthen commercial relations and negotiate agreements, Economy Minister Sosa said.

[Begin recording] This was definitely a positive trip to strengthen our commercial relations with the Republic of China.

We were able to hold talks in which we told the Republic of China's authorities of the Guatemalan Government's interest to increase our relations. We also discussed the possibility of receiving financial aid from the Republic of China and of increasing social and cultural relations. It was definitely a very positive trip for our diplomatic relations with that country. We were welcomed by the prime minister and three cabinet ministers. We have good reason to feel optimistic, when foreign powers show such unusual interest to improve relations with the new Guatemalan Government. [end recording]

HONDURAS

COMMENT ON U.S. AID TO CONTRAS, PEACE SOLUTION

PA180020 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Apr 86

["Current Issues" commentary]

[Text] Good morning friends. Today could be a decisive day for the U.S. foreign policy in Central America, because the House of Representatives is voting on the aid for the Nicaraguan armed opposition. The matter should have been discussed yesterday, but the voting was postponed until today. The finesse of U.S. politicians has been evident in this controversial decision which has met the rejection of the House and the Senate several times, although the latter finally gave its approval after learning of the incursion of the EPS in Honduran territory in March.

President Reagan has repeatedly insisted on this matter, gaining more sympathizers with his decision. However, in a skillful move the Democrats merged in a single package the $100-million aid for the anti-Sandinists with a law on expenditures which the U.S. president had threatened to veto. After this high strategy, Reagan cannot veto this law because then he would be affecting the $100 million that he requested, which is now linked with another bill. President Reagan thinks that if this money is approved, he will have an instrument with which to pressure the Managua regime to switch to the democratic path it promised but did not follow.

Meanwhile, we have seen the efforts of the Contadora Group as a peace instrument. The long obstacle course begun in 1983 by this group of nations seems to be reaching an end, but it is still hard to see who will reach the finish line in favor of peace.

However, at this stage, one thing is clear in this wave of intense pressure affecting our regions: War can only postpone peace. The most recent meeting held in Panama early in April, clearly showed the game of clashing interests in the region and, in addition, the disposition of certain governments such as those of Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, not to continue risking their prestige in an effort in which the key factors are beyond their control.

The results of the meeting, thoroughly reported by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat through the dispatches of international news agencies, contrasted with the significant presence of 13 foreign ministers of Latin America at the negotiating table. It is a fact that it has never been more evident that the OAS has turned into a large bureaucratic apparatus without the political and executive capacity to be in line with the current situation of our continent.

In Panama, the foreign ministers of the Contadora and the Support Groups were exceptional witnesses of how Nicaragua is betting in favor of war instead of peace, perhaps forgetting that common sense is the basic foundation for diplomacy.

Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman repeated that his country cannot put a limit on its arms buildup because its main adversary is the United States, which he blamed for the covert war that Nicaragua has been facing since 1981.

The Sandinists' reasoning cannot be taken lightly because it involves a couple of premises that concern all of Central America. The first Sandinist premise is that war is unavoidable and that the only thing that is being discussed is when it will start. The second premise, which is closely related to the other, is that the Central American conflict is military and not political, thus forgetting the basic lesson that war is a prolongation of politics. In this regard, Nicaragua, which considers itself the offended state, has chosen the wrong site and weapons for the duel. It is behaving as if we were in feudal times, forgetting that in contemporary times the small countries have the right to survive protected, not by force, but by international law.

The boldness with which Sandinists seized power in 1979 seems to have disappeared and once again, militarism carries more weight than civility in the balance of power. We are interested in this matter because we are convinced that Central Americans were born with the same historical identity and that it is impossible to break the area into pieces. The economic and social crisis being experienced by the isthmus can be successfully faced if there is a common effort and for this, there must be conditions to overcome and underdevelopment we were not born with.

Nicaragua must clearly understand that peace is the best thing for the Central American people. Regardless of how many weapons the Sandinists may have, they would be unable to resist a direct U.S. military intervention. However, the price of such a lesson could be fire throughout Central America.

Contrary to what many revolutionaries may think, Honduras is not Lebanon, Nicaragua is not Vietnam, and Central America is not Southeast Asia, neither politically nor geographically speaking. For this reason, the result of a war in our region would be different. Sandinism should understand this before rejecting civilized peace offers.

In Central America there is contiguity among the countries and continuous regional problems. This is why it is suitable to ask ourselves: What price will Honduras have to pay if the warmongering option prevails over the pacifist alternative? The answer will be determined by what we are: a poor country with many material limitations, with a foreign debt that has a grip on us, with 60 percent of the population in a state of poverty, with decreasing natural resources, and with human resources that are languishing for lack of education and food.

To be truthful, our Army is prepared to defend our territorial sovereignty, but not to turn itself into an expeditionary force that would have the backing of a war economy. We even import the bullets we use and the ammunition is paid in dollars -- the same dollars we need to import the raw material necessary for promoting the industrial sector.

If there is a large-scale conflict, the expansive wave would destabilize every single institution in Central America. If would be worse than the worst earthquake in our history because ideological wars end only when ideology dies crushed by the weight of a huge material and political force that would open a door to a new way of life with basis on different material grounds. If there is a war, there will be no winner. Whoever happens to come out of it on his feet will have only the privilege that Napoleon had after Waterloo: to view a territory planted with death.

Nicaragua must rectify its path. It must look for more just and well-balanced forms of coexistence, both domestically and internationally. The Sandinists, in the height of power -- where there is a strange loneliness -- must realize that their people may someday think that in history some carry out the revolutions, but others administer them.

Contadora must not die because there could be death throughout Central America, but if Nicaragua does not come to its senses, there is the decision to be adopted today in the U.S. House of Representatives. This decision is being made at the psychological moment when the terrorist threat from the Libya of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who has been punished for having ordered from Tripoli the bombing of airplanes and discotheque, thus creating innocent victims. We don't know the conditions under which the $100 million for those Reagan calls Nicaraguan freedom fighters will be approved, but it is obvious that in the United States there is the firm decision to stop international terrorism.

If the punishment decision was adopted for a strategic area of the Mediterranean Sea, where European and Arab disapproval was to be expected, we have no doubt that any other forces of disturbance will be neutralized, especially if it appears on American territory, in the so-called backyard of the United States. An error is being made by looking down on the peace mechanisms that have been functioning for the past 3 years.

U.S. 'ADVERSE' TO AREA PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

PA180413 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 6

[Editorial: "The Presidential 'Summit' and the Region's Present Situation"]

[Text] Come hell or high water, the Central American presidents will meet in Esquipulas (Guatemala) to analyze the regional situation and seek a change toward economic reintegration, in keeping with the isthmus' new reality. The "summit" of isthmian presidents should not be considered untimely. On the contrary, under the present circumstances, a joint meeting of the men who hold the fate of this conflictive part of America in their hands is more than necessary. Nevertheless, from the first time this initiative was mentioned, the U.S. Government seemed adverse to the project and there were even maneuvers to make it fail. President Duarte remained true to his word of attending the conclave, the same as Honduran President Azcona Hoyo, who stood ready in case the meeting was to be held in San Pedro Sula. What is, then, the U.S. concern over the Esquipulas "summit"? Probably the desire to keep Nicaragua completely isolated from the regional political context, as part of the siege to topple the Sandinist regime. However, Central America's interests include Nicaragua of course, and all effective solutions must be the product of an exchange of opinions and united interests, especially in the current situation in which on one hand we clearly see the spectre of a generalized war, and on the other we see the unquestionable need for a completion of the Central American peace and development document that the Contadora Group and the Lima Group are preparing.

The evolution of the controversial $100 million in military aid for the "contras" at the U.S. Congress, the punitive U.S. actions in Libya -- which have unleashed an intense international reaction -- and the evolution of Central American public opinion, especially Honduras' in regard to U.S. policy in our region, makes the conversation among the presidents even more appropriate, within a much more favorable framework than existed when they met on the occasion of President Cerezo's inauguration.

Of course we must not expect finished solutions to emerge from the meeting or that the proposal to create the Central American parliament will be easily implemented.

Most important at this time are issues that apply to Contadora and issues related to the discussions on "the region's political and joint security problems."

Of the eight-point agenda published, four points referred to regional economic integration and the foreign debt. We must not fail to take advantage of the occasion to discuss Central America's economic and social integration.

However, it is obvious that conditions are not adequate for the implementation of this integration so long as the East-West conflict continues in our territory and, consequently the entire scheme of Central American life is distorted in a skillful manner.

Central American integration, then, will result from peace and understanding among the governments and peoples of this region. The war, logically, will remove the possibility of integration, which for a long time has been the only true solution for our economic and social problems.

The meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas is therefore amply justified and will depend on the presidents' patriotism and intelligence and their perception of our countries' future.

This event must not be inscribed, like many others of this type, in the annals of superficiality and escapism.

'AZCONIST' CRITICIZES CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

PA171741 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The current administration continues to be the target of criticism. Another deputy -- others have already criticized it, including Ramon de Jesus Avillon and Mario Ramon Lopez -- said that Jose Azcona's administration lacks coordination.

Honduras depends on the United States politically and militarily, Edmond L. Bogran, deputy of the ALIPO [Peoples Liberal alliance] or Azconist coalition, has said.

Deputy Bogran is unhappy with the Azcona administration's performance because the government has not concretely defined its action plan, and its work is uncoordinated.

The ALIPO leader said he expects more from the current government concerning its rapport with the people.

Bogran acknowledged that the current relations between Honduras and the United States are unique because this country is economically dependent and the current situation in Central America makes us dependent politically and militarily. We cannot elude reality. It is absurd to believe that a law will change this state of affairs.

However, the government can formulate its own, independent policy to allow Honduras to gradually make progress regarding our self-determination, the prestigious political figure and prominent banker explained.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER ORTEGA CONTADORA, U.S. 'AGGRESSION' REMARKS

PA220347 Managua International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Over the weekend, President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra denounced the existence of U.S. plans to blame this Central American country for anything that may happen to U.S. soldiers in Honduras and to use this pretext to step up its aggression. The Nicaraguan head of state raised the charge during a meeting with labor leaders to mark 1 May, International Workers Day. Here is an excerpt of Ortega's statements:

[Begin recording] You know the situation. We do not have to repeat it. You know perfectly well the causes of this situation, of the crisis that all Latin American countries are experiencing. Naturally, this crisis also affects Nicaragua. However, Nicaragua is also enduring aggression.

[You know] about all of the resources we have to divert to it, such as the men, in the first place, who could be producing but who have to wield a rifle instead. ANd there are also the material resources that have to be devoted to the military confrontation with the U.S. Government.

This is a war between the United States and Nicaragua. This is an overt war by the United States against Nicaragua. The only thing lacking is a formal declaration of war against us by the United States, yes, a note from the United States publicly declaring war on us. This is all that is required, because in actual fact the U.S. President is engaged in an open war against Nicaragua.

Of course, we [word indistinct] the aggression by the U.S. President, confronting it, defeating the aggression, and also facing the risk of Yankee intervention in a struggle for peace. We are struggling for peace. By defending the revolution with rifles we are struggling for peace. By being willing to achieve a peaceful solution, as proposed by the member countries of the Contadora Group and of the Lima group, we are struggling for peace.

Our latest position, [words indistinct] we announced with regard to this entire negotiation process is not a capricious position. It is not an adventuresome or irresponsible position. Nicaragua's position is the same as that of Latin America, the same position held by Contadora. (?By doing so) we are but reminding Contadora of its position because in the proposal it announced in Venezuela in January of this year, Contadora talked of simultaneous actions to be able to achieve peace in Central America and the signing of the document is but part of this process of simultaneous actions.

In the latest letter we received from President Alan Garcia and President Sanguinetti of Peru and Uruguay, respectively, they [word indistinct], they note that the question is to continue the discussion of the document but that the signing and implementation of the document will be determined by the security that the Central American countries have or have (?attained)? Therefore, if there is no security for a Central American country like Nicaragua, if there are threats hanging over a Central American country like Nicaragua, there is no question that the document cannot be signed and cannot be implemented because, the way the document has been proposed, the way it is submitted, it contains a commitment that those actions will be automatically implemented upon its signing.

Therefore, our proposal is logical because, in order to implement the series of actions which the counties signing the document undertake to comply with, peace must necessarily exist already in Central America. If there is no peace in Central America the document cannot be implemented and therefore the document cannot be even signed.

Now then, we are willing to sign the document and that is why we remain firm and insist on the pending points because these are sensitive pending points. They have to be discussed and we have to reach agreement on them. Nicaragua has an on-going war and the points that have to be discussed have to do with military matters. Nicaragua is facing a war and it has to repel that war by giving rifles to the workers, the peasants, the laborers, the people. We lack rifles and even in the war zone itself, there are thousands of peasants who are asking us for rifles. However, we do not have enough rifles to give to all peasants and workers.

The outlook in this war is for a bigger confrontation with the United States. The outlook is not for peace. We would like the outlook to be for peace, but it is not, and it does not depend on Nicaragua. It depends on the U.S. Government. The United States has an adventuristic government. It is an overbearing government that is killing children here in Nicaragua. The Reagan government is stained with the blood of Nicaraguan children. And they have now gone to Libya to murder children, too, on the grounds that they are fighting terrorism. (?Such) is the new logic, the deformation, the aberration by the U.S. President. The heroic U.S. pilots and the heroic President Reagan have gone to fight terrorism by murdering children in Libya. What way of fighting terrorism!

And they are defending democracy here in Nicaragua. Reagan is murdering children here in Nicaragua to defend democracy. So as to get support for his policy [words indistinct] the famous $100 million. It is not so much the amount that Reagan is seeking because he can send it to the merceneries one way or the other. What he is looking for is the support of the entire U.S. Congress for his policy of terrorism against Nicaragua. That is what he is looking for. And he is talking about sending military advisers. He has already sent military advisers. We denounced [words indistinct] the explanation they have given to the U.S. press is that these are not military advisers but CIA agents who provide liaison and coordination with the contras, with the activities at the contras' camps. The truth is that they are agents of the U.S. Government — adviser — who are there supporting the contras. And more and more forces of the so-called Green Berets are arriving to support the contras.

And Reagan threatens Nicaragua every day. Libya has now been bombed and they have set up a full-fledge campaign to try to sell to the U.S. people the idea that Nicaragua is promoting terrorist actions. Once they sell the idea that Nicaragua promotes terrorist actions they will have the conditions [words indistinct] they talk that there is a whole operation has been prepared in Nicaragua -- to go kill U.S. soldiers in Honduras. These are but campaigns aimed at creating a climate against Nicaragua. [end recording]

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CASUALTIES, CONTRA AID FUNDS

PA191445 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] While giving his annual report in February of this year, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra disclosed that the number of victims resulting from the unjust war imposed on us by the U.S. Government is 12,332, of which 3,999 are dead, 4,542 injured, and 3,191 kidnapped. [figures as published]

The details were supplied by Reinaldo Antonio Tefel V., Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute minister director, who added that the damage caused by the mercenary counterrevolution up to December 1985 was estimated at $2 billion. Tefel's report has to do with the immoral discussion of the $100 million that imperialism is trying to obtain as "humanitarian aid" [as published] for the counterrevolutionaries. Tefel explained that the war situation has contributed to the displacement of 250,000 Nicaraguan; the number of pensions being paid as a result of this dirty war is 19,798.

The terrorist and barbaric war promoted by Reagan and his henchmen has left in Nicaragua 9,124 orphans; 1,841 disabled persons; 5,899 mothers who have lost their sons, and 2,934 widows. Tefel said that with the $100 million that will be given to the mercenaries -- who have only brought mourning and death to the Nicaraguan people -- we could build 4,000 Rural Children's Services (SIR) to take care of 400,000 children; we could also build 1,700 lunchrooms to feed 340,000 children, and 466 Child Development Centers (CDI), to take care of 66,900 children. This would mean being able to give special attention to 806,900 children in the country. The number of children under the age of 15 in the rural population in Nicaragua who are taken case of by the Social Security and Welfare Institute is approximately 739,000, Tefel indicated. All this means that we could take better care of these children if we had the $100 million that will be given to the mercenaries.

COSEP LEADER VIEWS HONDURAN STATEMENTS ON CONTRAS

PA212037 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1809 GMT 21 Apr 86

[By Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Excerpts] San Jose, Costa Rica, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Enrique Bolanos, the top Nicaraguan private enterprise leader, has justified the presence of anti-Sandinists in Honduran territory and said that "it would be actually criminal" to expel them from that country.

Bolanos, who is the president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), the top Nicaraguan business organization, told the press in San Jose that he backed some of the statement made by Carlos Orbin Montoya, the president of the Honduran Congress, who said in San Jose over the weekend that his country will tolerate the contra groups that are fighting against the Sandinist government.

Bolanos said the Honduran Government "has no choice" but to accept the presence of the anti-Sandinist groups in its territory, although this does not mean that it encourages them, because "it would actually be criminal to send them back to Nicaragua."

Bolanos added that this is not a change on the part of the Honduran Government, just a new phase, the phase of official acknowledgment.

According to Bolanos, that acknowledgment occurs in view of the avalanche of Nicaraguans who cross the border daily in search of other ways of struggle, "faced with the failure of peaceful means," but "hoping to return to Nicaragua soon."

Bolanos said that out of respect for international treaties and "to remain within a certain legality," Honduras had denied the presence of the contras in its territory, but that that position is now difficult to sustain.

Asked whether the Honduran acknowledgment would further erode peace in Central America, Bolanos replied that peace is not in itself the goal of the Central American people.

"Everybody speaks of the Central American war, but no Central American country is at war with another country. There is civil war in Nicaragua and El Salvador," Bolanos pointed out.

Bolanos believes that the only way to achieve the stabilization and pacification of the area is for the six Central American countries, including Panama, to have the same political system whether it be "communist or democractic."

GOVERNMENT RELEASES HONDURAN SAILORS TO CONSUL

PA181247 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today released through the Foreign Ministry 12 Honduran sailors who were arrested some days ago while fishing in Nicaraguan waters.

The repatriation of the Honduran citizens was carried out during a ceremony held at the consulate, which is located at Km 14, Southern Highway; they were received by the consul, Dr Herminio Pinedo, who thanked the Nicaraguan Government for its action and said that this will contribute to improving bilateral relations between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The delivery of these prisoners was carried out by Companero Oscar Ramon Tellez, director of the Central America and Mexico Department at the Foreign Ministry. Ricardo Miranda, a Honduran sailor, expressed his thanks for the good treatment received from the Nicaraguan authorities and pointed out that he felt happy because he was returning to his homeland and knew he would meet his relatives.

CASTRO SPEECH MARKS PLAYA GIRON ANNIVERSARY

FL200310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0038 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Playa Giron victory and the proclamation of socialism at Havana's Karl Marx Theater -- live]

[Text] Distinguished guests, family members of the combatants who fell at Giron, Giron veterans, comrades:

When the Giron events occurred, approximately half of the current population of our country had not yet been born. Many who are now adults were children, then but millions of adults remember well the events that were intensely lived by our people.

During these past few days, our press has spoken extensively on all that occurred during those days. Even though there are many testimonials, I sense that an exact, precise, and global account of that battle has not yet been written. Sometimes, we confuse dates from what we remember even though it only involved 3 days. Things that happened on the 19th [of April 1961] are presented as occurring on the 18th. Some events that occurred on the 20th; later events, are presented as occurring on the 19th and it continues. There is no global, precise version of all the events. Possibly, some historian or a group of historians, now, after 25 years, will take advantage of the great quantity of written accounts and question those who participated in the battle and will reconstruct, with a maximum amount of precision, all that occurred.

The international press has also spoken extensively about these events during the past few days because it is the 25th anniversary. Some cable services have said that certain participants of those events have not yet recovered from that defeat.

The Giron aggression had its antecedents. On 11 December 1959, the CIA chief proposed to the U.S. Government a plan to destroy the revolution. As early as 17 March 1960, President Eisenhower ordered the organization of and preparations for the aggression. Naturally, we did not know that at the time. We knew it later when the authors and participants of the event themselves recounted the criminal act.

Before Giron they had carried out an entire destabilization program, acts of sabotage, assassination plans, organization of armed bands, unloading of explosive weapons or landing those explosive weapons by parachute. Before Giron, the imperialists had organized numerous groups of bandits in Escambray. Practically all of the provinces in Cuba had armed groups organized by the CIA. There were hundreds of counterrevolutionary groups in the country. Each time three or four met or even two or three counterrevolutionaries, they made an organization. That was the CIA's style; promote many organizations even though some were stronger than others and they used these groups in their activities.

Two days before the bombing, the El Encanto store was burned in an act of sabotage where comrade worker Fe del Valle died. On the 15th, they launched the aerial attack. The night before -- the attack was at dawn -- but the previous night, they were attempting to carry out a landing at the eastern province in the Baracoa region. They launched the invasion on the 17th.

In explaining the imperialists' defeat in one way or another, much has been written by journalists, members of the U.S. Government, CIA members, and U.S. politicians. Nevertheless, the events are very clear to us. The mercenary invasion did not surprise the country. It did not take us by surprise despite the fact that all the cable agencies -- and here you have a good example of the seriousness of the transnational's news information system -- received instructions from the U.S. President not to speak or publish any news related to the invasion plans which was now known to many people. The principal newspapers, including THE NEW YORK TIMES, which betrayed its fame as an objective newspaper, received instructions not to divulge any information on the invasion plans.

Thus, no one could learn from the newspapers or the press services what was going to happen; but through other means, because of past events, because the revolutionaries had learned to guess what the enemy was planning to do; we were able to decide that the attack was imminent. We cannot say that we had the exact date and time, but we had that gut feeling.

During previous weeks we had worked very hard. The efforts made in organization and training of personnel were enormous. Hundreds of thousands of persons were organized, trained, and armed in just a few weeks. The arms continued to arrive and arrived very opportunely. They arrived a few weeks prior to the invasion. A large number of artillery pieces arrived: ground artillery, antiaircraft artillery, antitank artillery, also tanks and self-propelled heavy artillery. We were able to receive hundreds of thousands of arms.

Most of the arms were coming from socialist countries. Our attempt to obtain arms from Western countries sold us the ammunition but refused to sell us the guns. One of the ships bringing arms, Le Coubre, was sabotaged. Dozens of workers and soldiers were killed in that explosion, an act of the CIA. Since then, no other ship which has brought arms has exploded. Some thousands of ships have brought arms since then and not one of them has had any problems. Only a ship loaded in a western European port could be sabotaged. There the CIA was able to sabotage it very easily. The sabotage consisted of a fuse between boxes, so when one was picked up it blew up.

We conducted an investigation and decided the explosion could not occur by chance. Hand grenades and other ammunition in that cargo were dropped from aircraft at different heights and none blew up. It was clear that it was a sabotage organized outside our country in such a way to cause two explosions. That is what happened. After the first explosion, a few minutes later when the soldiers and workers were helping those who had been injured, the second explosion went off, making that sabotage a very bloody one.

That ammunition was not stored very long. The process of organizing battalions was accelerated. At that time, the majority of our Armed Forces was organized into battalions. We called them heavy battalions or light battalions referring to the type of weapons. An entire program forming cadres was developed. An accelerated program for training of personnel was developed because there was a small number of technicians and specialists, Soviet and Czechoslovak. However, that program for training personnel to use all those weapons was long. The first batteries were expected to be ready in several months. We had weapons for hundreds of batteries. The circumstances were special. The situation was an emergency.

In the same camps where the first batteries were training, we spoke with the comrades and told them, "what you learn during the day, you have to teach to others in the afternoon." We grouped thousands and thousands of members to form artillery groups.

We selected volunteers from the different units already organized. Ciudad Libertad was converted into an enormous camp as will as other locations. In Mariel, La Cabana, and elsewhere, there were dozens of thousands of men in training during the weeks prior to the attack. That was fundamental. Not a moment was lost.

On the day of the attack, with little or no preparation, this allowed all the weapons to be manned and ready to use. In a short time, the impossible, a rigorous preparation of personnel, was accomplished and they knew how to use the weapons. The rest was a result of the heroism and good will of the workers, militia members, and soldiers. The tanks were newly arrived. The tank corps had barely 1 week of training. They knew a little about tanks. They learned how to drive the tanks that were left by the tyrants.

Measures were taken at the airports in case of a surprise attack. Anti-aircraft batteries were organized for protection. We had an improvised general staff in Havana City. That night we were on alert for a possible landing in the east. In the morning, airplanes were flying very low, practically on top of us and they were directly headed for Ciudad Libertad. Not 1 minute has passed, possible 1 1/2 minutes, from the time the low-flying planes passed until the attack on Ciudad Libertad began with rockets and machine guns.

We were able to appreciate the incredible speed with which the militia, who operated the antiaircraft battery, began to fire at the airplanes. Not even 20 seconds had passed from the time that the first shots began to the moment when the battery responded efficiently. This is how the first battles began, with a surprise attack, using airplanes with the insignia of our Armed Forces, our Air Force, the exact same insignia. The second we saw the airplanes pass we thought it was a little strange. We wondered where they had come from. We knew nothing about them. They were disguised enemy airplanes.

It was strange that they launched the attack 36 or 38 hours before the main strike. Maybe they thought they would deceive us when they tried to land on the night of 14-15 April around the Baracoa area. They were expected there. They had landed and had been there for a short while but they did not fool us when 200 men landed in Baracoa. We still did not know what they were going to do with the large mercenary force which was being trained in Guatemala. The whole world knew that. How would it be used? In small groups to try to have many fronts or would it be concentrated? We preferred they concentrate them because we could solve the problem faster. However, we had taken measures.

Months earlier we had cleaned up the Escambray. The number of outlaws had been reduced to less than 10 percent in that place with the participation of militiamen from the entire republic, but mainly from Havana. About 50,000 men participated in that cleaning-up operation. They were trained, hiked the mountains and obtained experience which later would be very useful in the Giron battles. But we had taken measures in case they decided to disperse that force in many groups. We had placed at least one squad in every possible coastal landing spot, in all possible landing places. We also considered the possibility they would attempt to create around Cuba another Taiwan. That, for example, they would want to take over what today is called the Isle of Youth -- previously known as Isle of Pines -- where as a matter of fact thousands of counterrevolutionaries were imprisoned because many of those outlaws captured at the Escambray were there. There were not too many places....[leaves thought unfinished] Many of those saboteurs, those counterrevolutionaries, were imprisoned there. We had to foresee the possibility that they would try to land there and free those counterrevolutionary prisoners, occupy a part of the national territory, and establish a provisional government.

We also had foreseen the possibility that they would land around the Trinidad area next to the Escambray and undoubtedly that area was among the places considered in their plans. But the large clean-up operation in the Escambray a few months earlier apparently made them change their minds, mainly because we had greatly strengthened the Isle of Youth. Thousands of combatants were entrenched there to make it impossible for the island to be occupied by a mercenary invasion. Measures were also taken in Trinidad. At the airport the coasts were considerably fortified so that the possibility that they could land there was removed. They were the ones who then had to solve the problem of where they would land if they decided to concentrate all the forces.

Thanks to the measures we had taken, the previous bombing did not destroy our planes. When the invasion took place on the 17th there were still more planes than pilots. There were around eight or ten planes. Those are the facts we have to point out, but there were only about seven pilots, no more, not many more. I remember that there were more planes than pilots left. The airports were reinforced. Some imperialist so-called strategic theoreticians have said that one of the reasons the defeat took place was that the second bombing was not conducted in San Antonio to destroy the planes we had left. But we had foreseen that also.

Airports were reinforced with antiaircraft defense, the planes were protected. But also at dawn on the 17th, once the landings in the area of Playa Larga and Giron were confirmed, before dawn, before dawn [Castro repeats himself] the planes were already in the air flyig toward the areas of Playa Larga and Giron. They would not find any grounded planes because we foresaw the possibility that our small Air Force bases and our meager Air Force would be attacked again.

How did we realize that the news we got around 2 in the morning, when we were resting or were trying to rest a few hours after not having slept for days, we were awakened and told that a landing was taking place in Playa Larga? Apparently the one in Playa Larga was the first one. We sent a message to the command post. How could we know that was the main control? When news kept coming about the Playa Larga landing, that combat had taken place with the squads and also landing on Giron. The first conclusion we arrived at was that they were going to attempt to occupy a pice of the national territory. That strategy was logical because it could not be thought that any mercenary expedition could defeat the people of Cuba. That had to be the beginning of a mechanism to facilitate a U.S. intervention through the OAS, that was very clear. They already had the mechanism, organized groups, leaders, president, ministers, chiefs, everyone.

It was not conceivable that a mercenary force, even if was 1,500, 5,000, 10,000, or 100,000 could have defeated the Cunan people. It was clear that they were promoting foreign intervention. No one believed the idea that success was based on the people's rebellion, not even the authors. If they genuinely believed that at one time, then it is an example of how unsuccessful they were.

However, that was not the problem. That was not the plan. It could possibly have been the expectation of those who organized that mercenary expedition, yes. But what they did was not aid a rebellion. It was very clear from the beginning. They were looking at part of the territory, it was very clear to me. They could not attack the Isle of Youth because it was fortified. If they could not land at Trinidad, a part of the territory that could be defended from both directions since one would have to use roads between mountains to arrive there and unite with the escambray bandits, then it was apparent that the territory possible for this was the Cienaga de Zapata, separated by a swamp that was more than 10 to 15 km wide.

The swamp could be crossed at three points, between Australia and Playa Larga, Covadonga and San Blas on the east, or Yaguarama and San Blas. There were three roads that were easy to cut off.

When we heard the news of the encounters with the squadrons in Playa Larga and Giron, we became aware that it was the most likely place to carry out what they could not do at Isle of Youth or Trinidad. The attack came from that location.

Measures were immediately taken to send the first units to that area. It was clear that if they landed there, we would have to secure one of the three roads and we tried to secure the one that was the closest. It did not matter to us that they could take control of part of the territory in addition to the two other roads. At least one road had to be in our hands and that was the mission given to the school responsible for the militia and two battalions that were in that zone. They had to secure one of the roads. The necessary troops began to be mobilized to combat the enemy, but not 100 percent of our troops. It did not include 100 percent. It was a small percentage of the total forces of our country, but they began to mobilize units, tanks, anti-aircraft artillery, and infantry in that direction. They proceeded with caution in the event that the enemy would land at different points because one had to consider that it was a distractionary maneuver.

There was more news by morning which began to confirm that the enemy's main strike was to be in that area and because of this, airplanes were flying in that direction before morning. When it was definitely confirmed that the main strike would occur in that location the paratroopers landed during the morning to take the Yaguarama-San Blas and covadonga-San Blas roads. Australia and Playa Larga were in the swamp area. The enemy did take the two rods but the militia was waiting for them.

Those who were landing at the swamp enterance could not take any positions. The ones who tried to land in the south on that same road did not have time to take any positions and one of the roads remained in our hands. That was very important. I think we would have squashed them even if they had taken the three roads. The tanks would have passed over them, as occurred in some locations.

As I said before, it was a 10-km road in the middle of the swamp that could absolutely not be crossed. It was converted into a route that was easy to defend, very easy to defend from tanks, mortars, antitank weapons, and a so-called superior air force, which is what the enemy believed they had and they were indeed superior in numbers. They were greatly superior in numbers with approximately 30 airplanes. We had approximately 11 planes and 7 pilots. The secret was the way those airplanes were used.

The calculations of the Pentagon and the CIA seemed reasonable. The famous brigade with its company of tanks and numerous antitank weapons, artillery, and paratroopers, and others who were very well-trained by the CIA and the Pentagon could have held that part of the territory. The arrival of the paratroopers convinced us without a doubt [of the location of the main strike] because they did not have many paratrooper groups, it became evident.

The objective of the revolution was to prevent them from having time to do anything, to not give them a respite. Above all, we could not allow them time to consolidate a part of the territory. They had prepared the provisional government, which was waiting in Miami with their suitcases packed, to land in Playa Giron.

The curious thing about all of this is that they selected a location that had characteristics similar to Trinidad or the Isle of Youth, easy to defend. They landed at one of our most familiar areas. We knew the location almost as well as the Sierra Maestra because the revolution had occupied the most distant and poor areas of the country, not because of military reasons, but because of social reasons. Two tourist centers and three roads had been built in just a short time.

It is peculiar that the three roads had been built by the revolution and the Giron airport had also been built by the revolution, so we were very familiar with that area. Therefore, a response plan was designed quickly. Of course, we could not determine how many planes the enemy had. We had to be careful in this, we had to avoid mistakes. We had no doubts about what we had to do with our planes. Our planes' mission was to sink the mercenary squadron. So at the same time their planes tried to strike our troops and support their troops, our planes concentrated in sinking the mercenary squadron. Indeed, after 2 or 3 hours all ships were either sunken or fleeing. The famous squadron, with its auxiliary ships, did not last even 3 hours. The Yankees had been protecting them during several days. They escorted them with plane carriers and destroyers [preceding word in English] but nevertheless they were in Giron and Playa Larga in a very short while. [applause]

They were not able to last there. Even the communications command post was sunk by our Air Force's accurate strikes which also downed some enemy planes. Of course, our troops could not be given protection. Around 11 in the morning or between 10 and 11, two planes were sent to provide support to the militia leaders to cross the road heading. it was the only time that the planes were taken away from the top of the squadron to support our forces.

However, a large movement of enemy planes was seen. We did not know if they were 20, 50, or 100. I did not know how many planes the United States could send. This is why the troops were always accompanied by many antiaircraft forces. During the day they were given instructions not to go there anymore, especially artillery and tank units. They were told to go beyond the Jovellanos limits, to not get near the operation zone during the day.

But at dusk, there was a torrent of artillery, men, and tanks. Of course, there were not many tanks because there were only five tank retrievers at the time. Those were modern, the rest went on their own tracks down the road, over 200 km, but they were getting closer and at dusk those tanks were there. There was enough land artillery, antiaircraft artillery, and all the necessary infantry. The enemy was not given a minute of truce, not even a minute. That is important.

During the 64 hours -- because they were 64 hours, 72 or less it is said they lasted 72 or less, but actually they landed around midnight and by 6 in the afternoon there was no organized resistance. They were completely disbanded. They were not given a minute of truce. Of course, forces were sent in the remaining directions but the majority went on that direction and we wanted to reach Giron that same night. Flavio recalls in one of his stories the instructions he had because he was in one of the tanks, in one of the first four tanks that charged the enemy. He says they had to arrive in Playa Larga, continue to Giron, and then go to San Blas, all in one night, he said. Maybe Flavio or some of the readers may think that was not wise. But I am completely convinced that they could have reached Giron in the morning, at least by the morning of the 18th. We did not have to wait until the 19th.

Enemy resistance was fierce there in Playa Larga, but as I said, we knew that area like the palm of our hands. At the Playa Larga command we were planning simple and elementary flank movement through a kind of narrow path, but large enough for vehicles and tanks. It is between Soplillar and Caleta del Rosario. We were waiting for the tanks that were coming on their tracks to organize the left flank movement, to surround Playa Larga over the west, divide the mercenary force in two, and rapidly advance during the predawn hours toward Giron. The enemy found the tanks in Giron possibly before dawn. A battalion was sent to Cayo Ramona to also divide the enemy between Giron and the road it had occupied toward Covadonga and Yaguarama. That battalion was sent by land.

It was at that time I thought we should determine a more accurate time for the remaining tanks to arrive, but the Havana command post contacted me and informed me an enemy landing was taking place in the western side of Havana. I thought that was very strange. I thought, did they have enough forces after the effort they are making here and after dropping the parachuters? Did they have another army to send to the western side of Havana? I asked if they were certain of this, if it was confirmed. I was informed it was confirmed that our forces had made contact with the enemy. That happened around 0130. We were waiting for the tanks and with the news that the enemy was landing on the western side of the capital and that it was confirmed, and that contact had been made, I left for Havana. I actually regret it very much, because even though that idea seemed exaggerated, that plan could have been fulfilled with the remaining tanks going in that direction.

Now historians will have to talk to tank operators because I had to go to the capital. I left a comrade there at the Australia command post. He did not have a lot of military experience and I left them all the instructions, asked them not to make a movement, not to conduct the operation. I returned. I arrived at dawn. That highway we have now, which shortens traveling time so much, did not exist. It took 3 to 4 hours to get there. We did not have means of communications, our cars did not have communications equipment to contact Havana. We could talk over the phone in specific places. We did not even have communications

I was disappointed to see that the landing news was false. I really thought a great combat was going to be waged. I thought it was going to be worse for the mercenaries because we had the majority of the forces in Havana. We even had the force of the Navy, two frigates that had artillery installed. We had filled it with antiaircraft parts so the Air Force could nave participated in Havana. I was closer. The Navy could have participated and we had many more forces and more combat means that what we had in Giron. When I arrived here I confirmed there was no such landing.

I will always feel the pain that the left flank operation could not take place that day before dawn. The enemy made strong resistance in Playa Larga. As a result, under the pressure of forces, it withdrew at dawn. But it withdrew, it could join the ones who were in Giron. On the contrary, they would have been divided in two with the simple task of blocking the road. And what happened? The Yankee squadron simulated a landing. Indeed, it had simulated a landing and it is known that they used electronic means and gave all the impressions of landing and combat. That aid given by the Yankee squadron allowed the mercenaries to remain 30 more hours there. They should not have lasted 48 hours by any means. If they remained 64 hours it was because of that maneuver, that simulated landing the Yankees conducted.

On the 18th, because of the resistance taking place in the Playa Larga area or the west side, and the fact that they joined all their forces in Giron, caused the offensive to advance through Covadonga and Yaguaramas. So on the 18th, fierce fighting took place because they offered a desperate resistance. Maybe they were waiting for the U.S. Air Force and fleet to intervene. Fierce fighting also took place on the 19th. We even used two or three helicopters we had at the time. We placed a force several kilometers east from Giron. Helicopters were used to push a bazooka company, to place them in the road that goes to San Blas to push them back since they were offering tank resistance in that direction.

All those moves were made. They were tricked. The group that was placed toward Cienfuegos, east of Giron, was told to keep silent, not to give signs of life. That was turned into a kind of trap where all the worms were going to be collected when they began to flee toward Cienfuegos, toward the east where fighting was not taking place. Actually, there were no plans of taking over Giron on the 19th. We had other plans. We were placing 10,000 missiles, with (?oboe) cannon and 122 shells. The plans for the night of the 19th was to wipe them out completely and retain the position on the 20th.

At that time, I went from the command post to the San Blas leaders' post in the afternoon, around noon. We had no communications. I had to stop in each town to call over the phone. I believe I was around Jovellanos or nearby when I called over the phone and was told there was a new mercenary landing. I asked, has the Air Force detected many boats between the Yankee ships and Giron. I started to think, another landing at this time? A new landing? I knew that the forces advancing from Playa Larga were very close, kilometers away, very close to Giron. The others had already reached the road and were advancing.

I told the commanding post comrades, it is not a landing, it is an evacuation attempt. It is an evacuation attempt [Castro repeats himself]. We recommended the Air Force use all its means to attack all those vessels which were heading to the coast [as heard]. We continued to go toward San Blas. We asked Petrito to please use the artillery at its full potential and to attack Giron -- which had not been taken yet -- as well as the sea. We could not allow the mercenaries to escape. At that time the aim was to prevent them from escaping.

Of course, all this battle was waged before the eyes of the Yankee squadron and plane carriers. No one knew what they were going to do but no one worried about that. Actually, when some destroyers [preceding word in English] came close, the 86 cannons were pointed toward them. I remember that when we arrived in Giron, the first tanks which got there were placed in front of the Yankee squadron at night. They had all their lights off. The entire Giron battle was waged within sight of the Yankee squadron and its plane carriers. I believe this also shows the courage of Giron combatants.

News was received that an attempted evacuation was underway and it was assumed that it was another landing. I was sure that it was an evacuation. This determined that the operations be continued for a 2d day and that Giron be taken that same day to prevent the mercenaries from escaping. And that is precisely what happened.

Upon analyzing all those events, and I repeat that some historian or a group of historians should make a detailed and precise account of all that occurred because there was a lack of communications between certain units which was a serious problem, I also remember that after arriving in Giron, the (Pederito) artillery, from which we had not received any information, continued bombing.

I imagine that what happened to the mercenaries is what happened to us in the bombing. Each time a plane took off the earth shook and when they fired their weapons we knew where they would fall because we were then under the bombing of our own artillery because of a lack of communications. The final orders were to place four of our comrades in four tanks, four commanders, one in each tank, because we heard reports that the road was penetrated by a group of mercenaries with anti-tank cannons.

The lack of communication with the other forces in Playa Larga kept us from knowing exactly what was happening and the order was given for the airplanes to proceed at full speed above the tanks and the planes did take off at full speed. It seems that the mercenaries, upon feeling the rumble, at some moment had abandoned their position and when the tanks arrived there, they clashed with the troops that were coming from Playa Larga. There were many incidents such as this, unfortunately, because of a lack of communications. That, however, was not an obstacle. It was not a pretext for the forces to fail in their mission.

Another incident occurred. I did not intend to speak so extensively on this, but just a little to recall those events, to recount something to the new generations and to the millions that were born after Giron.

As I said before, it lasted 64 hours, 64 hours [repeats himself]. Demoralization was total, absolute. The next day there was a great effort to collect weapons, prisoners. The mercenaries were so demoralized that we collected prisoners in the east and pushed those who remained scattered so that they would fall in the hands of the troops that were situated in that area. At certain moments there would be strong and accelerated shooting and then one of our tanks advanced and clashed with our own troops.

I was told, "there is a group offering persistent resistance." That we received resistance on the morning of the 20th is doubtful. It would have been very hard. Nevertheless, we sent mortars and troops into that area. They had clashed with each other. We, who are now familiar with this, can say that there were preoccupied with the prisoners they took the day before, which was a mercenary company or at least one squadron with a tank, when they saw the tank approaching.

Another clash occurred among ourselves, which, fortunately, was not fatal. There was some shooting and still, no one knows how they became aware that they were not enemies. Fortunately there were no casualties. But that was the tenacious resistance which they had reported to me as being offered by the mercenaries. It was very strange because all of this has its psychological background, its own laws. The demoralization was total. Those mercenary forces were demoralized. Isolated groups do not resist tenaciously or lightly or at all because the mercenaries believed that they did not have a true, profound, just cause to defend.

During those moments when I was going in that direction, I did not realize that, along the edge of the ocean where the road continues for 30 meters and is covered by trees, I passed by a squadron of armed troops. I did not see them, but they did see me and they recognized me. They did not shoot. They were totally demoralized. This did not seem strange to me. Not a single mercenary fired any more weapons from the moment they became disorganized. Not a single one. Some remained in the "Houston" which had run aground at the edge of the Bay of Pigs so that they would not sink since Carrera [not further identified] had fired a rocket directly at them. It was a direct rocket impact and the ship was sinking and they were jumping out, leaving a complete battalion.

Of course, on the 20th they still did not know what had happened there and they were still putting up some resistance on the night of the 19th. That problem was also resolved later. I would say that the most noteworthy thing in all those Giron incidents was the courage, patriotism, and daring of all those combatants. This was the most noteworthy thing of that battle -- the behavior of all the men who participated in that battle.

The Air Force, the seven pilots, well they eliminated the squadron and part of the enemy air force that had not been eliminated by the anti-aircraft artillery. The enemy air force practically disappeared; it was destroyed. The squadron was partly destroyed and what was not destroyed fled at full speed and was never again seen in that area. And we only had seven pilots. They had approximately 30 planes.

The courage of our tankmen, of our artillery men, of our anti-aircraft operators, mostly boys 16, 17, and 18 years old; our infantry, and constantly advancing without stopping despite the risks, advancing against an enemy that had established its position and who had to be dislodged; without communications, when every chief had to act at his own discretion; the courage and behavior of the companeros who were given their missions. During the first attack in the early hours of the 18th against Playa Larga, the tanks drove up to the enemy trenches and one of the tanks fell into one of the trenches. The infantry advanced along the road in the hours of the night and early morning. It was a straight road with no protection whatsoever. Every companero given an order carried it out instantly, without hesitating. This is what we saw in Giron, heroism.

These conditions caused us to have greater casualties. The enemy was entrenched; our forces had to march in a straight line. The enemy air force inflicted many casualties because it attacked buses carrying personnel, it attacked trucks transporting troops on various occasions. They used tricks to do this. They would fly over and wave and our companeros would think that these were our planes. They would then turn back and use their machineguns. This inflicted many casualties to the point that 156 companeros died in these actions, including those that died after the battle in which they were wounded.

Back then we did not have the means we have today; we did not have the experience we have today; we did not know what we know today. However, this taught us how important medical assistance can be. Had we had the medical assistance that we have today, or the means that we now have, we could have saved many of those who died later. That is the truth.

Hundreds of companeros were wounded during those battles. I will repeat that the most important thing was the courage, patriotism, and revolutionary spirit of the combatants.

Another event of greater historic importance was the fact that it was precisely on the day of the funeral, at the moment of the funeral of those who had fallen in the bombing, the socialist nature of the revolution was proclaimed. [applause] This has as much historic important as the Giron combats have. The truth is that this occurred before the battle of Giron, before the outcome of that battle.

The imperialists said that this was a revolution betrayed. The revolution makes laws for the people, just laws, laws that had already been announced. These laws had been announced right after the attack on the Moncada Barracks. It was the Moncada plan which was strictly observed.

One of the first laws was the one decreeing lower rents. Another of the early laws was the intervention of some public services, and the recovery of stolen property. Of course, the most important law, the one that unleashed the anger of the empire, was the agrarian reform law. This was not an extremely radical law, it was only slightly radical if we take into consideration that there were large latifundia. Many U.S. enterprises had tens of thousands of hectares. One U.S. enterprise had more than 200,000 hectares. Therefore, a law that establishes a maximum of 400 hectares would be considered a very radical law.

Nevertheless, in the world, if one takes into consideration the amount of land allowed to landowners, this was not a very radical law. In the first land reform law drafted, landowners were allowed up to 30 caballerias [land measurement]. However, since this hurt the interests of the great U.S. companies, it led to the decision to wage war on the country. In May, the land reform law was enacted. There was a package [conjunto] of revolutionary laws, which were contained in the Moncada Program which was not yet a socialist program.

However, imperialism, of course, began to take measures against the revolution. It began to take economic measures, that is, to close all credits. It threatened to take away the sugar quota. It gradually did take away our sugar quota.

In the face of every enemy action, the revolution reacted. U.S. companies were nationalized. The oil refinery was intervened [intervino] because it had refused to refine Soviet oil since apparently the Soviet oil was communist, and therefore different from the rest. The Yankee refinery could not refine communist oil. We proved that it was possible to refine that oil. We intervened in the refinery and thanks to the help from the workers the Soviet oil that had arrived was refined. At that time oil from Venezuela was still refined.

As a result of the revolutionary laws which sought to punish the murderers, the henchmen, and to recover money stolen from the country, and the other measures I have mentioned, they [not further identified] began to say that the revolution was betrayed, or that this was socialism or communism and, therefore, the revolution had been betrayed. There in Playa Giron, in the wake of the aggression and the bombings, as our people were facing an imminent attack whose scope and consequences were unimaginable, at a moment in which we were probably facing the greatest war in all our history -- since no one knew something that began that way was going to end -- the socialist nature of the revolution was proclaimed. [applause]

Therefore, [applause] our people then began directly fighting for socialism, for a socialist revolution. To be sure, at the time of the attack, and as result of all the measures that had been adopted before, partly in response to the actions of the imperialism, or in response to the actions by the counterrevolution, we could say that the revolution's socialist phase was begun. On 13 October 1960 -- following the nationalization of 35 Yankee sugar centrals on 6 August, as well as the nationalization of other companies such as the oil refinery on 6 August 1960 -- on 13 October, we nationalized all the banks. In addition, 383 major companies in the country were nationalized. By the time of the mercenary Playa Giron attack, the bank had been nationalized, the huge monopolies had been nationalized, Yankee properties had been nationalized, the major companies had been nationalized. The country had regained control over its natural resources and industries. A phase was beginning.

It was openly explained that those men had died and fought for socialism. Let us say for socialism fought and died, all those who have fought and died in Cuba in each of its historical phases, if we view socialism as what it is, a higher phase in the developement of human society. For those who rebelled with Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, fought with Ignacio Agramonte, Antonio Maceo, Jose Marti during the first war of independence which at that time immediately led to the abolition of slavery, and this action was as radical as the nationalization of Yankee properties and the country's great companies.

At that time the world was unthinkable without slavery. Therefore, in our patriots' struggle for our independence, when they rebelled against Spain, when they urged the peasants and slaves to join the liberating army they carried out a tremendously radical action for independence, for the fatherland's freedom, and for justice in our peace. And socialism is the higher form of justice. It is the higher form of humanitarianism. It is the higher form of dignity and fraternity among men. It is the higher form of true freedom. [loud applause] Thus, we can accurately say that those who have fought throughout our fatherland's history, from October 1868, also fought for socialism. However it took place for the first time at an advanced phase in our history and development of our society and people. They were one of the most heroic peoples of this hemisphere, because they had to fight against Spain alone, they fought alone against hundreds of thousands of Spanish soldiers when our population was barely over 1 million.

And they left us those heroic traditions which we later picked up in 1953, when we began the last and definite struggle for independence. Those fighters made possible these advances. They made it possible that before 100 years had gone by, we could begin building socialism in our country.

As I was saying, our people have been one of the most heroic people of this hemisphere. This is history, these are not made-up stories. These are events. These are the things our people did last century, and then there are the things our people did in this century. Therefore, we were convinced that the people who were capable of doing what they did in the last century were also capable of doing what they did in this century, [applause] that is, of carrying out the heroic deed of becoming the first socialist state of the Western Hemisphere. This is something that our current and future generations can be proud of, our country was the first. [applause]

In this century, in this hemisphere, we had to fight alone and many years against the Yankee empire, which is much more powerful than the Spanish empire. We were even betrayed by most of the Latin American governments. Our people won the right to fight for freedom, independence, justice, and socialism. Those who on the eve of the invasion, fought and died in Escambray, in other provinces of the country, fighting against the bandits, all of them were fighting also or socialism, as well as those who died in secrecy, and those who died in the Sierra Maestra, and those who died in Moncada. That is the idea, the conviction that we have.

But they were saying that we had betrayed the revolution. On the contrary; never has there been more loyalty for a revolution. [applause] But so that you will have no doubts, and so that all those thousands of fighters who were capable of so many heroic deeds will have no doubts, in Giron we were fighting for socialism, openly, so that the imperialists and their hypocrites would have no doubts. [applause]

These are two great historical events. Some U.S. reporters were expecting an uprising that never took place. Some of them even said that this did not happen, because very rapid measures were taken with the dissidents. The counterrevolutionary worms are called dissidents, as you well know, [laughter] because they did not rise up. In fact, many of them were arrested because we knew who they were. However, they were so divided, they had such very little force, they were so demoralized that even if they were chickens [laughter] they would not have risen on the morning of 17 April. [applause] The chickens rise every morning. However, these gentlemen would not have been able to do anything that even appeared to be an uprising, by any stretch of the imagination.

In order to carry out an uprising, it is necessary to have the support of the people. Since when did the counterrevolutionary worms have any popular support in our country? Do they not understand that? Others have said -- perhaps this is a little more logical -- that this was due to the fact that the laws of the revolution were popular. I am very happy that they say the laws of the revolution were popular. The laws that expropriate or confiscate property from the latifundists, the capitalists, the owners of large enterprises, and the Yankee monopolies are very popular laws. [applause]

But I must also tell you that what we did, these popular laws, these very popular laws are socialist laws and communist laws. [applause] Then I ask myself why so much antisocialism, why so much anticommunism, if the socialist and communist laws are popular laws. They are just laws. They are laws for which the people are willing to die. With that they confess, without realizing, that what has nothing popular or just is capitalism, the exploitation of man by man, the latifundism, the imperialist investments, and all those measures to exploit the people, to keep them in an uncultured and abandoned condition without medical assistance, many times without jobs, and involved in corruption and vice.

That is what they are confessing when, looking for justifications, they say that the people did not rise up because the laws were popular. We are very happy that they recognize this because this is the basis of the strength of the revolution: the justice that its laws and measures entail, the justice that those social changes entail.

Of course, those detestable things like mendicancy, prostitution, racial discrimination, illiteracy, and all those evils of capitalism -- which are much more evident in the capitalism of the underdeveloped world -- under no concept can they be popular. We are glad that they acknowledge that socialism puts an end to all those evils.

Many lessons can be learned from Giron. It is impossible to list them and I am not planning to do so, but I do want to point out something. On a day like today it does not matter if I repeat something that I have said on a previous occasion. The importance of Giron does not lie in the magnitude of the battle of the combatants or in the heroic deeds that took place there. The great historic significance of Giron is not what took place but what did not occur thanks to Giron. [applause]

I am not referring to the fact that capitalism would have returned to our country had they been successful in consolidating their beachhead. Because there was no way they could have established capitalism in our country again. [pounds on the podium; applause] I am not referring to the fact that it [the Playa Giron victory] prevented a plan that would have converted our country again into a Yankee colony -- because I am convinced that this country will never be a Yankee colony. [applause]

The importance of Giron lies in the price we would have had to pay for our revolution, the price we would have had to pay for socialism had the Yankee plan been successful and had they consolidated a beachhead.

Back then the Vietnam incidents had not occurred. The Vietnam war and the imperialist defeat in Vietnam had not occurred. And we, in such proximity to the United States, isolated, without any logistical possibilities, would have had to wage the battle of Vietnam in our own country, with a much smaller population than that of Vietnam, in a territory that is much smaller than Vietnam, and without any borders with a socialist country, but instead with the United States, the aggressor country.

How much would our people have had to pay for that battle had their plans been successful and had they been able to bring [the members of] that government who were left with their suitcases packed and standing next to the plane. [laughter] It is a shame that it did not arrive there. We would have had the complete little mercenary group there. We would have had all these big shots, the entire council of ministers. [laughter]

I was elaborating on an idea.... [Unidentified speaker: You were talking about the lessons] Oh, about the lessons. No, but what were we talking about? [Speaker: About that which Giron prevented.] Ah, that is correct. I went around in so many circles that I forgot. [laughter] That is why I ask you for help. [applause and laughter]

That which Giron prevented. That which it prevented. We were saying that we had to be the first ones to face what Vietnam faced later, but we faced it in our conditions, because, were they going to subject the people again? Were they going to bring capitalism? Were we going to surrender? [Crowd: No!]

It is clear that two things operated in Giron. The tactic used in Giron was a combination of the irregular war, the experience we had from the irregular war, and conventional war elements, which was the type of movement used in the enemy's rearguard. We had come from the Sierra Maestra and knew about this experience. We were not totally inexperienced. The country was armed. I said that we had thousands of weapons and a people who were willing to fight and die. Could they have disarmed these people? Let us suppose that they would have been able to consolidate the beachhead. Would they have been capable of occupying the entire country, the plains, the mountains, and the cities without fighting? [Crowd: No!] Would they have been capable of snatching away our 300,000 weapons? [Crowd: No!] They would not have been able to do that, and no one can be more convinced of that then us, who had already gone through the Sierra Maestra experience.

We, who were left with a few rifles and had an enormous army of 80,000 armed men to face, resumed the struggle with 7 rifles, that is all, 7 rifles. We had the rifles that were brought by the group that was with Raul, and those I brought. There were seven rifles. And we had a large army to face. Were they able to take the seven rifles away from us? [Crowd: No!] These rifles were multiplied many times, and they continued to increase. But the fact is that the specialty of Cuban revolutionaries was to fight with the enemy's weapons.

When the war was over, more than 90 percent of the rebel army's weapons were weapons taken from Batista's army. [Words indistinct] our philosophy was to fight with the enemy's weapons. Imagine, had the Yankees and their OAS underlings intervened here, would they have been capable of snatching away our 300,000 rifles? Never.

They could have started a terrible war in our country. Thousands, perhaps millions of Cubans could have died, but they would have not been able to subject us. Because I am sure that in the end, instead of 300,000 weapons, we would have wound up with 1 million weapons. And let the Yankees know this as of right now, so that they know what will happen to them in this country. [applause]

Giron meant that those who died there saved the lives of thousands of Cubans. We would have achieved victory anyhow, but at a terrible expense and at the expense of the country's total destruction. This is one of the lessons we must draw from Giron. This is one of the things that the new generations must understand. They must always know that this is one of the indelible lessons of Giron. But Giron also had other consequences, which show the price that these imperialist adventures may have.

As a result of Giron, the defeat suffered by imperialism, its resentment and humiliation, the initial imperialist steps aimed at a direct aggression against our fatherland and at seeking revenge were taken. This led to the measures that later caused the October crisis and almost led the world to a nuclear war.

So you see the implications of the irresponsible acts of imperialism through Giron. Its defeat almost led the world to tragedies that were infinitely greater. This is another consequence of the lessons. [sentence as heard] These are the unpredictable consequences of the irresponsible acts of imperialism.

Giron also teaches us the treachery, the aggressiveness, and the voracity of the imperialists, their form of acting, their style. Many will remember that after the bombing of 15 April they said that it had been our Air Force that had rebelled. The U.S. representative said this in the United Nations. He calmly told this great lie. It is still not known whether the man knew what he was saying or if he was deceived, because they deceived their own people. At that time the chief of the U.S. delegation was Stevenson, a politician who had some prestige in the United States, who passed as a liberal. They made him say this. He stated that. You see the methods and style of imperialism. It was a treacherous, surprise attack at dawn. It was with airplanes carrying the insignia of the country. Look at what a degree of treachery!

However, not only Giron showed the imperialist aggressiveness and treachery. Before Giron they had organized a similar plan in Guatemala, and they had overthrown the democratic government of Arbenz. The CIA had used a plan similar to the one organized in Giron. They committed a mistake. They did not realize the difference in the circumstances in which they carried out that adventure and the ones in which they tried to carry out this adventure. After Giron they intervened in Santo Domingo with tens of thousands of soldiers to crush the revolution. After Giron they carried out their brutal and bloody war of Vietnam which cost millions [as heard] of lives of those heroic people. After Vietnam, after Giron, they promoted the intervention of the South Africans in Angola to prevent the triumph of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]. After Giron they promoted the reactionary intervention against the Ethiopian revolution. After Giron they carried out a great number of aggressions against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people through the Israeli state. After Giron they intervened wherever there was a revolution. They organized dirty wars wherever there was a revolution or liberation. The same thing in Cambodia and Afghanistan.

After Giron they organized their dirty war against Nicaragua. They mined its ports. They promoted the formation of mercenary bands that have committed all types of misdeeds and crimes. After Giron they supported the genocidal Government of El Salvador, which has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Salvadorans. They supported the genocidal Government of Guatemala, which has cost that country, after the intervention against the Arbenz government, more than 100,000 lives and tens of thousands of missing. After Giron they intervened in Grenada. After Giron they intervened in Lebanon. They strafed, bombed, and killed Lebanese. Twenty-five years after Giron they have just intervened in Libya. This shows the aggressive and treacherous nature of imperialism. Everywhere the same method, the same lack of scruples, the same total absence of morals that teach us what imperialism is, its treachery, its voracity. Imperialism today has the Latin American peoples by the neck, with a public debt of almost $400 billion, high interest rates, dumping [preceding word in English], and protectionism.

Imperialism is insatiable. That is what Giron shows us, because they did all that here to recover their property, to establish their capitalism, to again seize the natural resources of this country, and for this same reason they have waged wars everywhere.

This is also one of the important lessons of Giron. It is an unforgettable lesson. To understand what imperialism is and the role that it plays against the peoples, the role that it plays against mankind's hopes for peace, the role that it plays against the interests of Latin America, one does not have to read Marx, Lenin, or Engels, because all these actions I have mentioned took place much later than Marx, Engels, and Lenin. They show the Latin American peoples who it is that divides them, who exploits them, who keeps them in underdevelopment and poverty, who intervenes against them, who plots against their independence. This is one of the lessons that we have to think about, that helps us to understand the phenomenon of imperialism.

Precisely around this time, the 25th anniversary of the victory of Giron, on 15 April, the empire lashes out with claws by carrying out a surprise attack, a treacherous attack against a small Arab country, a small Third World country. The brutal, shameless, criminal, terrorist attack was carried out against the Libyan people. We have witnessed it. Can you imagine a bigger example of perfidy and aggressiveness?

As a result of these events, Comrades, our representative to the United Nations declared in a strongly worded statement before the Security Council that these were the legitimate heirs of Hitler. The representative of France, who was presiding over the Security Council, protested such a statement by the Cuban representative. The illustrious French representative protested, and of course Mr Vernon Walters, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, said he was confused. We could say he was melting with gratitude for the French representative for having criticized such a comparison. I ask myself: Why was he shocked? Why close ones eyes before facts and realities? I am profoundly convinced that Reagan is as unscrupulous, opportunistic and irresponsible as Hitler was. [prolonged applause]

I would add that he is potentially more dangerous than Hitler, because Hitler did not have nuclear arms. Hitler did not have that arsenal of electronic arms, submarines, aircraft carriers, and all types of sophisticated equipment for destruction and death. Compared to what Mr Reagan has at his disposal, what Hitler had was the equivalent of bows and arrows and paddle boats. That is the comparison between Nazi Germany's destructive power and the U.S. destructive power.

Even if Hitler had wanted to do so, he could not have led the world to the brink of a nuclear war, could not have undertaken adventures which could practically signify the end of humankind. What have they done today in Libya? What have they done? It is incredible, an unbelievable act which violates all norms. All precedents have been broken. They have practically confessed that the objective of the air raid over Libya was to assassinate that country's leader, Al-Qadhdhafi.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported today that according to a Pentagon official they hoped to catch him. I am citing the article verbatim. The U.S. secretary of state himself said that one of the objectives was to eliminate the troops most loyal to Al-Qadhdhafi, who were stationed in those barracks, and provoke a coup d'etat. We knew that the United States had planned the assassination of political leaders in other countries. This is a cruel and barbaric method to settle political differences in today's world: plans to poison, attempts against the lives of leaders, all types of criminal acts, which have even been admitted by them.

But what had not taken place before, what set this precedent -- the government of one of the most powerful countries on earth has used its armed forces, its sophisticated bombers to attempt the assassination of the chief of state of another country, against which it has not declared a state a war. It has carried out a surprise and treacherous attack in the early morning hours. What is incredible about this, what they can no longer hide, is that the purpose of the attack against Libya was to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi. They had no regard for the family. They knew the family was there. They knew that Al-Qadhdhafi's wife and children were there. Nevertheless, they sent dozens of aircraft to reduce that place to dust.

They had no concern for the lives of the civilian population, of the foreign embassies' personnel. They dropped a torrent of bombs over those places. It has been learned that one of Al-Qadhdhafi's children, the youngest, a 15-month-old girl, was killed in the air raid and other sons were wounded. On their own television screens, they themselves have demonstrated that the attack was directed against Al-Qadhdhafi, his residence where he was with his family. Nothing more repugnant than this can be imagined, nothing more brutal. Nothing similar has ever happened in contemporary history.

Why should anyone be shocked? Why should anyone be astonished? Why should anyone be shocked when it is said that Reagan is a legitimate heir of Hitler? From what I know of World War II, there is nothing similar to what Mr Reagan has done. There is no precedent of such a shameless attitude when they admit that those were their objectives. They are so cynical that, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, they had prepared a statement for immediate release in which they stated that Al-Qadhdhafi's death was accidental. One of those bloody pilots said he was frustrated because they were not able to fulfill the mission of assassinating Al-Qadhdhafi and his family, even though they assassinated part of the family.

Acts such as those have no precedent. How far are they going to go on that road? Why are the Europeans shocked? What is the difference between the Tripoli air raid carried out by Reagan and the Warsaw air raid, which marked the beginning of World War II? The Amsterdam air raid? The London air raid? What is the difference? Why were Hitler's acts, when he challenged a superpower equal in might, considered ignoble? Or were they more ignoble than Reagan's act of bombing the capital of a small country of the Third World? Do the Europeans not know that those adventures led to subsequent tragedies?

It is true that France suffered -- as its representative said -- the brutal treatment of fascism, but other countries suffered more than France, such as Poland, which lost 6 million lives, Yugoslavia, which lost million of lives, or the Soviet Union, which lost 20 million men, women, and children. [applause]

Because of all of this, we support and totally agree with the statements by Cuba's representative at the UN Security Council. [applause] What is the difference between Reagan's and Hitler's methods? Hitler used to begin undeclared wars with surprise attacks by his bombers at any time of day or night. He [Reagan] attacked Grenada by surprise. He mined the Nicaraguan ports by surprise, without declaring war in either case. By surprise, treacherously, he bombed Tripoli against all norms and traditions, including laws observed in time of war.

His style or false methods, or his methods of using lies systematically to justify or try to justify his acts, using all types of pretexts for the crimes perpetrated in Grenada, those perpetrated in Nicaragua, those perpetrated in Tripoli: these are Hitler-type methods. The offensive way in which public opinion is manipulated to seek support for his policies, by using the mass media: these are Hitler-type methods. His constant praise of chauvinism, cheap patriotism: these are Hitler-type methods. That is Reagan's behavior.

So I do not see the difference between the two; that is the truth. Right now, as a result of the Tripoli air raid, it has been reported that the polls reflect 77 percent support among the U.S. public. When the rest of the world, including the British public -- despite the fact that the British Government allowed Reagan to drag it into his adventure -- is against that action. World public opinion unanimously opposes what was done. Now we have the phenomenon that a majority of the U.S. public supports him. The same thing happened in Grenada. Of course, we also know that when Hitler invaded Austria the immense majority of the German people, poisoned by chauvinism and fascism, applauded the annexation. When Hitler started the war, using a prefabricated pretext, invaded and occupied Poland, the immense majority of the German people, poisoned by the war, fascism, and chauvinism -- all are the same thing -- applauded. When Hitler invaded Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg, invaded France and occupied those countries' territories, the immense majority of the German people applauded, just as the U.S. people today applaud what took place in Tripoli and Grenada. Hitler's crimes, what is the difference?

If there is any difference between the two, it is that Hitler did not have the might and therefore was not as dangerous as this U.S. Administration is, with its equally irresponsible and unscrupulous acts. I believe there are too many coincidences to call them accidental. That is why we have to ponder about topics such as this on a day like today.

Companeras and companeros: In our country, the party's program is being discussed among the people. At the end of the year, in a special meeting, the delegates to the third congress will analyze and approve this program.

The conditions in which the program was created and in which it will be implemented are not easy. In fact, the conditions plan, the 1985 plan, the 5-year plan, and the perspective plans -- are not easy at all. On a day like today, we must also think about these things. There are circumstances -- some of them even appeared after the congress -- which make the task more difficult to attain, but it is not unattainable.

Late last year, our country received nature's blow: the hurricane. It affected 60 percent of our sugar cane. It made the sugar harvest more difficult. Despite the great effort made by our workers, doubtlessly the final results will show that our sugar plans will be affected by no less than 1/2 million tons. And this figure is not greater, it is not 1 million or 1 and 1/2 million tons thanks to the effort of our sugar workers.

However, we not only had the hurricane. Something that is paradoxical and even incredible is that the drop in the dollar affected us. Many will ask: How is it possible that a drop in the dollar could affect Cuba? Precisely, the imperialists wanted to reduce the value of the dollar because they have a large trade deficit and, in order to compete with the Japanese and the Europeans, they reached that agreement among themselves because those who demanded it. They adopted measures that decreased the dollar value. Therefore, for us who sell sugar and all our exports in dollars, if sugar is sold for 4 or 5 cents, when the dollar drops, these export prices drop. But, basically, the prices of our experts increase because we are not importing from the United States in the convertible area. We import from Japan and Europe. In that case, we only acquire fewer German marks, French francs, English sterling pounds, and Japanese yen for a dollar. With a ton of sugar we then acquire fewer products in these countries. If we imported from the United States then this situation would be favorable for us, because the dollar would be cheaper.

All these paradoxes happen to our blockaded country. We suffer the negative consequences both when the dollar is up and when it is down. But not only that, another surprising thing: The reductions in the price of oil affected us. They are affecting us a lot. Bear in mind that we also expert oil, part of our production. In addition, all the oil we save from that which we import, we export.

I had to talk about that in the wake of the energy forum, about what it meant to save 1 gallon of fuel, 1 barrel, 1 ton, cent by cent. [Words indistinct] thanks to the enormous savings efforts, while sugar prices were especially low, one of our main foreign exchange revenues was oil exports. We received millions of dollars. With the price reduction, we have been affected by practically two-thirds of the oil price [as heard] and we have been affected by millions of dollars in convertible foreign exchange. It has practically ruined the enormous savings effort we have been making.

All this that I am mentioning about the oil occurred in a few weeks, even after our congress was held. This increases the country's difficulties. This forces us to make a bigger effort. Why am I mentioning these matters on the occasion of the 25th anniversary? Because now we are not fighting the mercenaries. We do not have mercenary invasions. But we have mercenaries. They are people who play the role of mercenaries. Sometimes they are even good people, people whom we call good. They are people who are willing to fight for the revolution but who do things that go against the interests of the revolution. And many of them do not even have a profound revolutionary awareness.

All of this forces us to make an effort. At the party's congress very specific lines were drawn. Harsh criticism was made of existing problems. And we vowed to fight these problems. We vowed to detect them one by one and to fight them.

As we were saying, we were discussing the program. Without these problems I am referring to, we would have to comply by the line drawn by the congress. But even now it is more important and decisive to comply with this line. We must be much more intransigent with all that is done incorrectly.

We must carry out a struggle that is much more consistent against the problems that come up. I discussed this with the Pioneers in the wake of their 25th anniversary. Even more so, we must discuss this problem with our people.

Today, we do not have the problems we had 25 years ago. But we do have people who are apathetic and negligent. These are the people, I told the Pioneers, who do not want to participate in the struggle. They are irresponsible people. They are people who are not too demanding within the sphere of their responsibilities. They are tolerant people. We have people who seek privileges. We see people who want to make easy money not from their work, but from crooked deals, speculation, and illegal businesses.

On a day like today I do not want to have to refer to the examples that exist, some of them shameful, when in an apparently legal way they have earned in 1 year 100,000 pesos and even more. Tell me gentlemen, how this is possible in socialism. I know that some people painting and selling paintings even to state institutions have earned more than 200,000 pesos in a year. This is just to cite an example of incomes that do not seem to me to be really the fruit of work because, companeros and companeras, they are not the paintings of Picasso or of Michelangelo. [laughter]

This naturally shows the irresponsibility, so many irresponsible people because it is the people's money trying to compete, some have confused work on their own with capitalism or with capitalist business freedom. Some have confused that. Yes, we have some of those problems. If someone earns 100,000 pesos, you can imagine that someone who earns 100,000 pesos earns 20 times what the doctors who do heart transplants earn in a year. Twenty times. I have seen self-sacrificing and modest doctors with their salaries of 5,000 or even 6,000 pesos a year while some individuals, making crooked deals, have earned 100,000 and more.

You know well how critical I have been with the practices of the peasant free market. Individuals would sell a clove of garlic for 1 peso. They would pocket this. It was not the peasant working and sweating honestly. With all the facilities that the revolution gives them, education for children, medical assistance, all the possibilities, there was no lack of any facilities, and nevertheless, they did not enrich themselves by cultivating the land. Instead, they enriched themselves by stealing, by selling expensively, very expensively. There have been other practices regarding merchandise that must be handed over and which is not, so that it can be sold in the other market. It is a practice, an experience. We ourselves have created the things that have originated this problem. We must know how to opportunely correct this because there are people who confuse one thing with another. We have to see some of our directors of enterprises. [applause]

The first thing that a revolutionary cadre, a socialist cadre, a communist cadre must ask himself is not if his enterprise profits more, but how the country profits more. From the moment that we have alleged businessmen who worry more about the enterprise than the interests of the country, we have an out-and-out capitalist the system of planning and management of the economy was not made for that, not to begin playing at capitalism.

Some shamefully play at capitalism, we know and see it. These things must be corrected the same as some who, increasing prices, want to be profitable and distribute bonuses by charging any sum, charging any sum.

In that way, anyone can be profitable, right? A few days ago I visited the director ... [changes thought] I visited the Ameijeiras hospital. They said they had some well-maintained elevators with stainless steel sheets. I went to see some new equipment that we had acquired, very sophisticated, very useful, very human [as heard]. One admires the effort being carried out in that hospital by the doctors, the specialists the workers. And they told me, do you know how much they asked for placing that stainless steel sheet? 10,000 pesos, 10,000. How many workers? Only two. How many days? Fifteen days. Well, the salary expense must be about 300 pesos. One really has to be shameless, I am not saying the workers, but those who organize these deals, to charge 30 times the wages for a 15-day job. That would be profitable. [laughter] We have seen that spirit. To fix a floor, that job of polishing the floor, the hospital was charged 40,000 pesos.

We already talked at the congress about these problems that we must fight. These are distortions and deviations. We know of the problems concerning the deviations of resources. We have witnessed them.

Not too long ago, I was touring an area, looking into some problems and I found a crane. Someone was trying to build a roof. To do this, he had gathered there a 17-ton crane, [correct himself] a 16-ton -- it was a (?caterpillar) crane -- a Japanese cement mixer, a truck to carry this mixer, a water truck, and a little pig to roast and give to these who helped him, in addition to beer and other food. [laughter]

The three trucks were coming from three different work centers. The crane came from the brigade that is building the thermoelectrical plant in the east. I saw this myself, no one told me about it. [laughter] No one told me this. [applause] The other truck with the cement mixer came from the oil company across the street from the children's city. The water truck came from a quarry that is on the highway. This man by himself, with his friends and relatives had gathered, on the same day, a crane, a cement mixer, a truck, and another truck. And who knows where he got the materials from. [laughter] He was building a house.

We are glad that people build houses, but let them build them honestly. They should build them honestly...a house of 150 square meters. If he sells it, he will sell it later for 40,000 [currency not specified] and he will have a buyer because those who steal money in one way or another and these who have large incomes that do not come from work, buy a house very easily, or even the capital if you sell it to them [laughter]

This then is a problem. Where do these millions of pesos come from? They do not come from work. The state gives resources, credits, and everything. The state gives credit for purchases. There is no need then to divert resources. There is no need to get involved in crooked deals. There are many needs. Needs exist. They are big. We need everything.

When I was telling the comrade president of the Planning Board about this story, he told me: On Sunday, I found a crane doing the same thing. But it was a 40-ton crane. [laughter] Can you imagine? That which we do in the big industries done by people here who have such ability and friends. There are so many people lacking control that it would be worth asking the brigade and the enterprise that are building the thermoelectrical plant in the east how was it that they did not realize that they were missing the crane for 3 days, because they took it out on Friday and it was returned on Monday.

And there must have been someone there who gave him a chance [dio un conduce] to justify this, and there was a coverup, and we know all those things exist. We know of people who look for privileges at any expense and who divert resources.

Of course, this is a struggle. When we talk about the party's program, the congress, and the measures, this does not mean that we are going to start a campaign today. We do not want to carry out a cultural revolution here. We do not want to solve the problems through extremist methods and stir the masses. We know this. We know how to do it. And I am convinced that the masses are the ones that can win this battle, and within the masses, I am talking about the masses of our party and youth. This also requires more vigilance from the committees. The committees know what is going on. If all of a sudden someone starts to build a super house and then it is sold and all that; we cannot adjust to things that are done incorrectly in this way. We cannot get into this kind of situation.

I think that here, well, if someone is involved in a crooked deal without the people and the masses knowing it... [changes thought] we do not want to stir the masses. We have the party, the youth, and the organizations. What we should do is to carry out a serious political work. We must pressure from top to bottom and from bottom to top, with much force. [applause]

Our party must be on the alert, be very alert. We have 500,000 party members. You can imagine, that is tremendous force. We wish we would have had an organization of 500,000 members when we began the struggle against the tyranny plus another 500,000 members in the youth, that is a force, the mass organizations, the millions of men and women organized in unions, in committees, the federation [of Cuban women], and the Pioneers. It is a tremendous and incredible force which, properly used, could put an end to all those things. Without extreme measures. We do not have to exaggerate. It cannot be done in drives. It must be a sustained struggle. As I was telling the Pioneers, we must continue fighting the remnants of the old system, the remnants of capitalism, the ideology of capitalism, the parasitism, the privileges, and the trend to receive in a privileged way without maintaining any relation to the work performed.

We have talked about the socialist formula: From each according to his ability to each according to his work. [sentence as heard] This formula is very clear. It is not egalitarian. [applause]

But I would like to know by virtue of what miracle or what diabolical mechanism an individual can make 10 times what a prominent doctor who saves lives earns. These are things that are not going well and these are consciences that are not working well. These are also officials who are not working well, not because of the money. [applause]

There are some who believe that socialism can be done without work, without political work. Well, some believe that it can be done without work because there are many of those. Others believe that it can be done without political work. [as heard]

We are doing some work with the hospitals in the capital. The problems they had... [changes thought] we met with all the leaders of the party, the youth, the nurses, and the union. The party in Havana has been doing serious work and the results are evident. There are enthusiasm and good spirits at the hospitals. It is not a matter that is done in a day. The party in Havana meets every month with the secretaries of groups and hospital committees.

This is a political work and through political work we can solve many problems. We are trying to implement certain just measures such as normal conditions for auxiliary workers. We are also studying multiple tasks [multioficios] better salaries for auxiliary workers, as was done with doctors, but all of this within the socialist formula. We are looking into the possibility of savings because the country has not been able to develop because of all the problems that must be solved. Lack of organization and inefficiency can be overcome by the people. That is political work. We cannot talk about profitability there because there is no enterprise budget or bonus. If we talk about bonuses too much we would be corrupting workers and would be telling them that things can be achieved through bonuses only. [applause] It has to be acknowledged that the socialist formula includes the bonuses and even the cousins, too. [play on words primas and primos] [laughter]

That results from good work, truly good work, and not through bonuses because it is a false profitability because prices were exaggerated and because 40,000 was charged for an apartment and 10,000 for a job that could have cost 500. [sentence as heard] These are profitable factors because it is easy to cover up lack of organization and inefficiency by increasing prices.

In addition, certain construction brigades such as that of Cienfuegos and that of the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students]. [sentence as heard] I called a comrade because we began to hear talk of up to 16,000 workers in construction. I sent him a message saying no, they had to make do with the number we had talked about -- 12,000 -- because another way to cover up lack of organization and inefficiency is by keeping track of what each man can do. And let me tell you that is a good brigade with very good cadres. The workers there have been receiving facilities, special uniforms, special work boots, and special food.

When I heard the figure 16,000 I said no, they must make do with 12,000, with 12,000 if, in addition to that the transportation workers are working more hours. The inefficiency and lack of organization cannot be covered up with more and more men because the figure would become 20,000 then 25,000 because of peak moments.

I am mentioning certain problems. I am talking about a good brigade of great builders to whom I made certain commitments and they also made some commitments to me. We have made an effort to improve their standard of living and other [things]. There are many people who, instead of asking workers to make a greater effort and fulfill their duty, [pounds on podium] go around inventing things, adding more people, which is easier but more costly for the country. We would run out of resources, then we couldn't give you the special uniform and shoes.

There are some of these things on which I meditate. Not long ago, I read in the paper about the problems of the Santiago de Cuba textile factory. People from various sectors met, from the party, and so forth, and what I read in the paper surprised me a bit. It said that this and that problem must be solved to achieve full capacity because there is not enough stability in the labor force. There must be more recreation and so forth, and cultural events, and so on. There must be a guarantee that housing problems will be solved. The possibilities for higher education must be guaranteed, too. I don't know how many things they wanted guaranteed in the end. One of the workers said that it is very difficult to reach that goal by 1990 but we will try. But it is very difficult.

I ask: What would happen if this textile factory were in Brazil, where there are many unemployed, so many people going hungry, where they do not have this textile factory? So many things are needed and so many promises must be made for the textile factory to produce at 100-percent capacity. Is this the way socialism is built? Is this how we believe socialism must be built? Without any appeal to the workers' duty and without any appeal to the youths' obligations?

I was saying that an underdeveloped country that must develop cannot be offering all kinds of things to make a factory work. One must know how to call the youths and workers to their duty and tell them: Produce! [applause]

And tell workers: Work ernestly. Reach the limits of production. Work, because first we have to have production and then the marvels because the revolution has made great efforts to guarantee jobs for all youths. However, we are an underdeveloped country in the face of imperialism and blockaded by imperialism.

It is not a matter of promises. We must call everyone to duty. I think that we must mention these things on a day like today because we have struggled, shed blood, and made many sacrifices to have these things. Apparently, some don't even know this or have not bothered to know what world they live in. [applause]

It is not a matter of coming here just to praise our past glories and pay homage to the dead. Homage is not paid to the dead in 1 hour, 2 hours, 1 minute, 1 second, or 1 day every 25 years or every year. Those who died and sacrificed for the revolution, generation after generation, must received our homage every day, every hour, every minute, and every second. [applause].

What are we going to tell the mothers who have lost their children? What are we going to tell the women who have lost their husbands? What are we going to tell the children who have lost their fathers and grandfathers in the revolutionary struggle, because I can see children there, 8 and 10 years, relatives of the fallen? Are we perhaps going to tell them that if I do not have a house next to the factory, I am not going to work in the factory? As long as the house is not built and even if it is fair to build the house next to the factory, if we need fabric and we have the (Balans) textile factory that can produce up to 15,000 cubic meters per ton of thread for our textile factories; ah, but there is not sufficient stability in the labor supply, houses must be built, we will wait until we have all the houses there in the corner. [sentence as heard] With houses alone the problem is not solved. You can have the house and go to another job. I think the problems must be resolved with Dignity, honor, and principles. We have to appeal -- and it would be demagogic not to do so -- to our compatriots and workers' sense of duty.

Of course, it was poor planning building the textile mill and not building a minimum of housing when one knows these problems. But the revolution does not have resources to solve everything. I think these [words indistinct] all that I have mentioned who are our enemy now, those who are the ones doing the work of the mercenaries, those who seek privileges and sinecures, who sidetrack resources, those who want to pocket money that they have not earned with their sweat, making crooked deals and speculation. It takes all kinds to make a world. [laughter] They are not a majority by any means but we have the duty of combating them because this minority can do these things only if the majority is passive, apathetic, and does not have a critical spirit and I am aware of the critical spirit of our people. I know the qualities of our people.

This struggle is going to bo long. It is not going to be a quinquennium long. All of our lives we are going to have to struggle against this tendency because, as Marti said, there are always two groups, those who build and those who destroy. There is a large and numerous group that builds but there is also the other group with the unaware, the apathetic, and the irresponsible. It does not have to be counterrevolutionary. There are some who do not realize that such is the way to act as a mercenary. We have to appeal to the honor and dignity of our compatriots, which they have demonstrated before in history.

I think this and all that we have said and remembered is very fitting on a day like today. It also reflects the world in which we live. All that I said about Mr Reagan's Hitlerite methods is showing us, for example, that the efforts our country carries out for its defense are not useless. We know that there is a need for schools, that there are old schools, some in bad conditions, above all primary schools, that there is a lack of housing, that we lack many things, that we lack sports and cultural centers. All of those things we want. Every year we have to invest hundreds of millions in fortifications, in defensive measures. We have to devote tens of millions of work hours to train the people. This takes energy and effort. These are efforts that we have to take from productive tasks so that they can be dedicated to training. Hundreds of thousands of tons of cement, steel, and all kinds of materials must be invested every year in defending ourselves. It is another price to be paid because of imperialism.

Today an occasion of this anniversary and in light of these meditations, we see how right we are in preparing the people for struggle. Because we were strong, we saved ourselves from a terrible war 25 years ago. Another lesson of Giron is that we have to be strong perhaps to save ourselves from a terrible war. In the measure that we are strong, that we are efficient, that we are hard-workers, that we fulfill all our duties, we will help prevent imperialist aggression because the imperialists, as opportunists, know where there is weakness, they will attack, where is strength, they use moderation. People are not only strong because of their patriotism and the weapons that they have but by their behavior in general. How the imperialists would like it if these problems and vices that we have mentioned would be multiplied because they know that we would be weakened, that we would be less strong to resist. Therefore, patriotism forces us not only to train, to form a combat unit, and to handle weapons but to fulfill all our duties every day of our lives.

The revolution has advanced and progressed much. It has achieved great successes but those who think that the new generations do not have equal or greater tasks than those which the generation of Giron or those who preceded it had are mistaken. They are mistaken. The struggle will be long, hard, and last for a long time. This 25th anniversary teaches us this. The list of imperialist crimes shows us this because we have an increasingly more aggressive, more arrogant, more powerful imperialism. This is a challenge for the entire world, for all the revolutionary forces, for all the socialist countries, for all democratic and progressive forces.

It is a great effort and struggle. No one should think that a single generation already did everything.

One generation does one part, perhaps a small part. The new generation must work even harder, and those coming behind that generation will have to face an even greater task. That is the truth; I want all our fellow citizens to become aware of this truth.

We must mediate on a day like this, so that we may tell our heroes and martyrs, those who had to suffer and sacrifice themselves more than others, that we will never let anyone spoil the fruit of their efforts. We will never let anyone squander or misappropriate the fruit of their sacrifices. We will struggle with the same courage, zealousness, and strength that they had fighting at Playa Giron. We will struggle endlessly, without respite against everything that still seeks to weaken the revolution.

Referring to the foreign enemies and dangers which lurk around us, we will also tell our heroes and martyrs, those who gave everything for the revolution, whose sacrifice brought sorrow for their dear ones, that the revolution will not only know how to defend itself from weaknesses [correct himself] from its own weaknesses, but also from its foreign enemies. This country will never allow the return of capitalism; this country will never become an imperialist property. We will tell them, like Antonio Maceo said in an immortal phrase, that whoever tries to take over Cuba will only find the soil awash with his own blood, or else die in the attempt!

Free homeland! Or death! [shouts, applause]

NONALIGNED MINISTERS CONDEMN U.S.-ISRAELI TIES

PA212305 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] The Nonalignment Movement in New Delhi has condemned the establishment of a strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, which is bringing about destabilization in the Middle East.

The final declaration of the Nonaligned Ministerial Conference stressed that the U.S.-Israel; alliance and aggressive policy are threatening Middle Eastern and world peace.

The nonaligned foreign ministers reaffirmed their active solidarity with Arab nations who are victims of Zionist aggression and with the just cause of the Palestinian people. They also urged the UN Security Council to take effective measures, including the imposition of sanctions specified in Chapter 7 of the organization's charter, to achieve the immediate withdrawal of Israel troops from occupied Syrian land. They also condemned the Zionist attack on Tunisia and the hijacking of a Libyan commercial plane last February.

After denouncing the military, economic, and nuclear cooperation between Israel and the South African regime, the final declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers' voiced concern over the dangerous situation created by the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982. They called on the United Nations to order the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from that Arab country.

In addition, the movement reiterated its call to the Governments of Argentina and Great Britain to resume negotiations on the Malvinas problems. The nonaligned foreign ministers reiterated their firm support for the Argentine right to recover its sovereignty over those South Atlantic islands.

They also condemned meddling in the internal affairs of Haiti, especially by the United States. They said: That activity constitutes disregard for the right of that Caribbean people to freely choose their political and economic system.

POLICE, STUDENTS CLASH; CLASSES SUSPENDED

PA220148 Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Violent clashes between students and police today forced the suspension of activities at the State University of Santo Domingo. The students started to demonstrate at the university campus and adjacent area in downtown Santo Domingo, demanding the release of several companions, including Manuel Salazar, president of the Dominican Students Federation. The students were arrested last Friday when the students, protesting the U.S. attack on Libya, clashed for several hours with police. Today the violent incidents broke out again and anti-riot police resorted to the use of tear gas. The students responded with stones and Molotov cocktails. The police made an undetermined number of arrests.

Calm returned after university activities were officially suspended by order of Rector Fernando Sanchez Martinez, who immediately convoked the university council to analyze the situation. It is probable that the closure will be maintained until 16 May, which is the date scheduled for general elections, several news media have indicated. Until late in the day the police maintained a cordon that prevented traffic through the university zone.

CANDIDATES 'CONCERNED' ABOUT VOTING FRAUD

FL121450 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, two opposition leaders vying for the Presidency say they are concerned about electoral fraud in the May 16 general elections. Former Presidents Juan Bosch and Joaquin Balaguer both said the ink used to mark voters who have already cast votes washes off easily and could result in people voting more than one time.

PREFERENCE POLLS FAVOR MAJLUTA FOR PRESIDENT

FL171906 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, presidential candidate Jacobo Majluta, of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party, is leading in voter preference according to a voter survey just published. The electoral poll determined that Mr Majluta is leading former President Joaquin Balaguer by 8 percent. Voters in the Dominican Republic choose a new president on 16 May.

BOUTERSE SENDS CONDOLENCES TO AL-QADHDHAFI

FL181942 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT Apr 86

[Text] Yesterday, the commander of the Surinamese revolution D.D. Bouterse sent the following message to the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amaar al-Qadhdhafi: Deeply shocked and greived by the loss of so many human lives and the extensive devastation in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, I offer you and your family my most sincere condolences in view of this sad event, especially with the personal loss you suffered for the tragic and untimely death of your beloved foster daughter. I sincerely hope that a peaceful solution for the conflict can be reached in the interests of the government and the people of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as well as for world peace and safety.

Requests Nonaligned Meeting

FL182004 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The chairman of the Nonaligned Movement received a message from the leader of the Surinamese revolution Commander D.D. Bouterse. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi received the following message:

I felt deep sorrow and was very shocked when I heard of the sad event which occurred as a result of the conflict between the United States of North America and the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya which resulted in a great loss of human life and extensive devastation. I would like to request a ministerial conference of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement which now assembles under your competent leadership to take the lead of the noncontribution [as heard] to solve this conflict into consideration, a conflict which has already led to acts which are indecent [as heard] of the basic principles of our organization and which constitutes a serious threat to world peace and safety. I sincerely hope the meeting will be successful.

AMBASSADORS DISCUSS ECONOMY, ADJOURN MEETING

FL111830 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Yesterday, the annual ambassadors conference was concluded at the Department of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, Minister Herrenbery of foreign affairs stressed the serious financial economic crisis which now grips our country. This was also the guideline of the conference. The diplomats and Department of Foreign Affairs had during the meeting sought ways for the foreign service to make a contribution to the improvement of the economic situation. According to information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, the diplomats have received specific instructions and an annual plan on the basis of which they will return to work abroad.

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SPOKESMAN TERMS ALFONSIN-HABIB TALKS 'POSITIVE'

PY230225 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0123 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin and U.S. special envoy for Central America Philip Habib tonight discussed the Central American crisis and its prospects during a 1-hour meeting held at Government House. Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez told newsmen that the meeting had been positive and that Alfonsin had reaffirmed the publicly-known Argentine position on the Central American problem.

Lopez said Habib conveyed his support for the efforts of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups and voiced his desire to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in that region. Lopez said Habib had noted that the solution should be a comprehensive one -- that is, it should include all problems stemming from the conflict. It should also be simultaneously observed and should provide effective, reliable implementing mechanisms. Lopez said Alfonsin agreed with Habib's viewpoints, which are in agreement with the Argentine position expressed in the recent Contadora and Contadora Support Group meetings.

Alfonsin was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and Under Secretary for Latin American Affairs Raul Alconada Sempe. Habib was accompanied by Raymond Burghardt, director for Latin American affairs of the National Security Council; and U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz.

Habib's visit is part of a tour of eight countries involved in the peace efforts promoted by the Contadora Group. According to diplomatic sources, the trip is designed to disseminate the U.S. Government's position on the Central American issue. According to these sources, the issue will be discussed by several Latin American chiefs of state on the occasion of the inauguration of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez on 8 May.

MILITARY SEMINAR WITH U.S. OFFICERS ADJOURNS

PY211719 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1810 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (DYN) -- Chief of Staff General Teodoro Waldner today advocated "the exchange of knowledge" and the strengthening of "ties with the Armed Forces of friendly countries" during the closing ceremony of methodology exchange seminar on military planning held by Argentine and U.S. officers in Buenos Aires. During the seminar Argentine and U.S. officers discussed, among other things, military actions on hypothetical battle fields in a hypothetical country based on different joint plans that were later compared.

Waldner delivered an address today at noon at the closing ceremony, during which diplomas were issued to the participating Argentine and U.S. military officers. The seminar has been held over the past 15 days at the Army War School. Present at the closing ceremony, which took place at the headquarters of the Joint Staff, were Defense Under Secretary Jorge Gonzalez Longzieme and other Argentine military chiefs. Also attending were members of the U.S. military and diplomatic mission in Buenos Aires.

After the blessing of the certificates by the Army chaplain, Gen Waldner presented them to the 11 U.S. officers and the 30 Argentine officers from the three branches of the Armed Forces who attended the course. In his address, Waldner noted that "the technological evolution imposed on us by today's modern world shortens geographic distances to such an extent that we cannot think of a theater of operations that does not demand joint planning." He added that when this entails two countries, "that task is more complex in view of the language barriers, the intrinsic characteristics, and the individual levels of the forces involved."

Waldner said that this seminar "allowed us to make some specific methods compatible within our military task, and to exchange experiences" between Argentine and U.S. officers. He added that "this kind of activity would lose its significance if we did not continue to exchange knowledge, if we did not continue to strengthen our ties with members of the Armed Forces of friendly countries, and if we did not build upon the knowledge that we exchanged during this seminar." Waldner also expressed his satisfaction at the results of the seminar and particularly thanked the United States "for sending worthy representatives" to the meeting.

PRC JOINT COMMISSION ENDS WORKING SESSIONS

PY170418 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1646 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (TELAM) -- The working sessions of the Argentine-PRC Scientific and Technical Joint Commission that have been going on at the San Martin Palace since 11 April ended today. The working sessions were called under Article 5 of the scientific and technical cooperation agreement signed in Beijing on 7 July 1980 to find new formulas to step up the scientific and technical cooperation program being developed by the two countries.

The Argentine delegation was headed by Ambassador Jorge Mauhourat, foreign policy under secretary, and Ambassador Oscar Yujnovsky, international cooperation under secretary. The PRC delegation was headed by Professor Teng Teng, deputy chairman of the State Scientific and Technological Commission.

The conclusions that were approved provide for the PRC's participation in the First Latin American Mining Congress; the creation of a group to study the slaughtering of cattle and sheep and the processing of their meat and the quarantine of animals for the prevention of domestic animals diseases; a system of sanitation for plants and seed certification; and for the student of techniques for open-heart surgey.

The following proposals made by the Argentine delegation were approved: Courses for training in silkworm breeding and farms for fish breeding; and subject to additional studies, installation of small hydroelectrical plants, training in diesel and biogas-driven engines, and courses in maintenance of textile machinery.

It is established in the final document signed by the two parties that the next round of sessions of the joint commission will be held in Beijing at a date to be set through diplomatic channels.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON U.S., LIBYA

PY190325 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Sabato today left for Stockholm and Algeria. Before his departure, he talked about Argentina's position regarding the U.S. attack against Libya.

[Begin Sabato recording] We have already expressed our position in a communique that was issued on 15 April. We view this situation with great concern. We believe that the use of military force and violence are undermining the international legal system and the international principles established in the UN Charter. As experience has shown, unfortunately this kind of action only increases violence. [end recording]

POLISH VESSEL PAYS FINE, AUTHORIZED TO DEPART

PY211341 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1543 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Rio Gallegos, 20 Apr (TELAM) -- After paying a $150,000 fine, the Polish vessel Likosar weighed anchor and left Puerto Deseado. The Likosar was detained a month ago for operating illegally in Argentine territorial waters. The report released by the prefecture of the Argentine southern sea zone states that the intruding vessel, which violated Law 17,500 (National Fishing Law), was allowed to leave after paying the fine.

ALFONSIN LETTER RESPONDS TO BISHOPS' CONCERNS

PY220016 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1907 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin has sent Argentine bishops a 2-page letter in response to a document in which they expressed their main concerns about unemployment, salaries, and the closing of job sources. The exchange of messages began in December of 1985 when an ordinary meeting of the permanent commission (the Episcopate's ruling body) issued a document addressed to the president. Although the text of the Episcopate letter was not issued on this occasion or after the next meeting, it was learned that it contained a summary of the main socioeconomic problems that had been detected in the Argentine dioceses.

In January, President Alfonsin sent a 2-page note to the bishops in which he noted that he shared their concerns and that the government is also "concerned about attending to the needy on a priority basis." The text of the presidential letter was not disclosed, but its "spirit" was learned of through comments made to DYN by half a dozen priests. In general, there was not a great deal of enthusiasm about the letter, which was photocopied by the permanent commission headed by Cardinal Raul Primatesta and sent to all dioceses.

One of the prelates praised as "a great humble gesture and one of the best of intentions" the request for "understanding" that the president made to the bishops in view of the difficulties the government is confronting. According to Episcopate sources, Alfonsin reminded the prelates of "the heavy burden that was inherited from the de facto governments" and the difficult international economic situation that sets unfavorable terms of trade for countries that produce raw materials such as Argentina.

One of the bishops praised this part of the presidential letter and noted the importance of "seeking solutions within the framework of the prevalent democratic institutions which must be defended and strengthened." However, other prelates noted that the presidential answer does not ease "the great concern" of the pastors, particularly of those in charge of those dioceses facing great economic difficulties and who are constantly receiving complaints from businessmen and workers about the economy.

UBALDINI ON ARBITRATION, STRIKE POSTPONEMENT

PY190316 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2116 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM) -- [General Confederation of Labor (CGT) Secretary General] Saul Ubaldini has said that open labor-management arbitration boards will be discussed beginning December 1986 and confirmed that the minimum pay for pensioners will be increased to 90 australes, while minimum wages for workers and the scope of wage negotiations will be discussed within the framework of the socioeconomic conference.

Ubaldini added that during the conference the CGT will try to have the minimum wage increased and will reiterate its opposition to the establishment of a guaranteed social wage, which has been announced by the government. Ubaldini officially confirmed the postponement of the stoppage scheduled for 24 and 25 April and the CGT's participation in the socioeconomic conference sponsored by the government.

Ubaldini made the above-mentioned comments during a press conference, flanked by the CGT executive board and Senators Oraldo Britos and Elias Sapag, who went to the CGT to gain an insight on the current situation as a preliminary step for a meeting the Senate bloc leaders will hold with President Raul Alfonsin next Monday at 1700.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY -- Argentina and Hungary have signed an agreement whereby Argentina will sell 400,000 tons of soybean pellets to Hungary between 1986 and 1989 for approximately $50 million annually. Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will also grant reciprocal lines of credits to each other. One such credit, for $20 million, will be used for building port locomotives in Argentina with Hungarian technology. [Summary] [Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 86 p 12 PY]

QUARTERLY RETAIL, WHOSESALE PRICES -- Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA) -- The National Institute for Statistics and Census has reported that retail prices -- which are used to assess the cost of living -- increased by 4.6 percent in March as compared to those in February, giving a cumulative 9.5 percent for the first quarter of 1986. The report adds that wholesale prices increased by 1.4 percent in March with a cumulative rate of 2.2 percent for the first quarter of 1986. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1750 GMT 4 Apr 86 PY]

CHAPARE PEASANTS PROTEST JOINT MANEUVERS WITH U.S.

PY211929 Paris AFP in Spanish 1453 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Peasant Leader Eudoro Barrientos today said that the peasants and settlers of the Chapare area, a coca-producing area located in the central region of Bolivia, have asked Armed Forces Commander Raul Lopez Leyton to visit the region to brief them on the Bolivian-U.S. maneuvers scheduled for 28 April. He said that the local peasants believe that, in view of the presence of U.S. military forces, herbicides will be used to destroy their coca plantations. He said that the only objective of the joint U.S.-Bolivian maneuvers is to harm the local peasants.

Barrientos added that a meeting of national peasant leaders has been called in the last few hours to adopt measures that will avoid foreign interference in Chapare. It was noted that the joint maneuvers will be conducted in the Valle Alto and El Cahapre areas of Cochabamba, where coca and cocaine sales are highest, and that these maneuvers will involve more than 300 U.S. military troops and 1,200 Bolivians who will rely on the U.S. Southern Command for material support (uniforms, parachutes, arms, communications and food).

Roadblocks Planned

PY220329 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpts] La Paz, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Peasants and settlers of the Chapare region, in central Bolivia, have decided to erect roadblocks tomorrow on all Bolivian roads to prevent the participation of U.S. troops in joint maneuvers with the Bolivian Armed Forces, union leader Walter Delgadillo announced here today. Delgadillo, who is the secretary general of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), said the COB has received an official note issued by the Chapare peasants who claim that the military maneuvers are designed to destroy their coca plantations.

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has stated that the government will not tolerate any act of violence by the peasants because the maneuvers were approved by the government, and any action designed to jeopardize them will be punishable under the Constitution and the laws.

TEACHERS RETURN TO JOBS AFTER 2 MONTHS

PY211817 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1635 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 21 Apr (EFE) -- Bolivian urban and rural teachers today returned to their jobs after a strike that lasted more than 2 months in demand of better salaries. Government and union leaders last weekend held extensive negotiations that ended last night with the signing of an agreement which grants a salary increase to teachers. The government has established a new salary scale for teachers, according to which teachers will receive a 50-percent increase for March, a 52-percent increase for April, a 72-percent increase for May, and a 132-percent increase for June.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST PINOCHET TEMUCO VISIT

'Unprecedented Violence' Noted

PY230220 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] This is a summary of the events taking place in Temuco, the capital of the 9th Region, on the occasion of the visit of President Augusto Pinochet and his delegation. The demonstrations began around 1230 on Arturo Prat Avenue only one block from the site where President Pinochet was delivering a speech. Students from the Catholic and San Pedro Universities and other groups demonstrated. The demonstrators were repelled by a cavalry unit, presumably from the cavalry garrison. Later Carabineros joined in strong repressive action to evict a very large crowd that went to the Teodoro Smith Plaza to set up barricades. At about 1430 the unprecedented violence was still going on in Temuco. The demonstrators overturned cars and ripped out traffic lights, trees, and everything they found in their way. Carabineros violently repressed the demonstrators. So far, about 100 people have been arrested and at least 15 people injured. Manuel Salazar, approximately 40 years old, was seriously wounded, and an unidentified minor suffered a double fracture of the spine. The demonstrations are still going on in this city. Students and other organizations continue to protest over the presence of the president and his delegation here in Temuco. The security forces, in an effort to control the situation, are using unnecessary violence. I would like to say that Temuco now looks like a city that has just been bombed.

President Speaks

PY230307 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet today said that the future of the country is a choice between democracy or communism and not between dictatorship or democracy as advocated by some sectors. The president delivered a speech after meeting with community leaders of Temuco in the Spanish Center of the 1st day of his tour through the 9th Region of the country. The speech was delivered in the midst of serious incidents. The president called on the people to seriously consider the country's political situation. He said that apparently some sectors have forgotten the attacks that occurred just before 1973, when land that was expropriated was left in ruins, abandonment, and destruction. Pinochet emphasized that this is why the government is now demanding from those who pretend to use demagogical struggle and who are under a strong ideological subordination to define their position.

[Begin recording] We are asking these people to stop deceiving us. We already know what they did in the past. They are the same people who promised, supported, and endorsed the most nefarious acts in the country without facing up to their responsibilities.

Pinochet added that the government gives a different answer to those who want to work. He said that the government governs for Chile and that means it is working for Chile. Pinochet also said that the young students are deceived by Marxist-Leninist dialectics and semantics of the same people who in 1973 were ready to murder them and their parents.

[Begin recording] Only the terms have been changed. They talk of either dictatorship or democracy, when the real question is either democracy or communism. We have no doubt; our decision is democracy. [end recording]

ELN FACTION SIGNS AGREEMENT, JOINS TRUCE

PA222325 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Commanders of the Gerardo Valencia Cano Front, a faction of the self-styled National Liberation Army, ELN, have just signed an agreement with the Peace Commission in Bogota whereby the front joins the truce. The Valencia Cano Front operates in Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Narino, and a large sector of the Atlantic coast. John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission, said the following:

[Begin recording] This proves that our policy is still gaining momentum and will in turn strengthen the process. It is no secret that peace has really achieved its objectives. I believe that if we continue struggling we will achieve total peace within a short time. We are very satisfied that an ELN detachment has joined this peace. We welcome the members of the Valencia Cano Front to peace. [end recording]

ECOPETROL RESUMES DIRECT OIL EXPORTS

PA192012 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Apr 86 p 9 A

[Excerpts] Colombia has renewed its direct oil exports. Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] has sold 1,150,000 barrels of crude oil. Shipments of this crude will begin on 20 April.

This is the first operation of this kind by Ecopetrol since it had to suspend crude exports in the mid-seventies when national production declined.

This oil comes from the several fields exploited directly by Ecopetrol or through association contracts. Thus, this includes part of the crude it owns in the Cano Limon oil field in Arauca, which President Betancur described last week as "a giant of universal importance." Ecopetrol is associated with the U.S. company Occidental in this oil field.

This operation is completely distinct from the operation begun in February by Occidental with oil from Orito. In that case Occidental is selling 17,000 barrels of oil per day from Orito on the world market. In exchange, it gives Ecopetrol a similar volume of its oil in Cano Limon.

Ecopetrol received purchase proposals from several international companies on 21 and 22 March in the framework of an open bid to sell the crude, which was awarded in the following way: Petrojamaica was awarded 300,000 barrels, to be shipped 5-7 May; Sumitomo 450,000 barrels, to be shipped 27-29 April; and Vanol 400,000 barrels, to be shipped 20-25 April.

BRIEFS

NEW SUPREME COURT OFFICIALS -- In elections many have described as surprising, Magistrate Pedro Alid Zoppi was elected new president of the Supreme Court of Justice yesterday. Jose Agustin Mendez and Luis Dario Velandia were elected vice presidents. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Apr 86 p 1, 27 PA]

MOPOCO LEADER ON 'DETERIORATING' REGIME

PY182219 Buenos Aires Argentina Television Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Excerpts] In Asuncion today a Paraguayan Government spokesman denied reports that Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner is about to resign. Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, leader of the opposition Colorado Popular Movement, Mopoco, who is presently visiting Buenos Aires, has presented his views on recent reports that have been issued in this regard.

[Begin Gonzalez Casabianca recording] There are clear indications that General Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship is rapidly deteriorating and that it is presently confronting a credibility gap at both the international and national levels. It is obvious that the United States is promoting changes regarding the old military dictatorship. They are convinced that these dictatorships have for a long time prevented their people from exercising their political rights, and they have plundered our economies. The U.S. knows that they are the proper medium for promoting the birth of extremist trends, which in the end only postpone the solutions to the real problems that our countries are confronting.

Recently there has been an upsurge of social mobilization demanding the reinstatement of public rights, which have been supressed by the dictatorship for a long time. In March and April there were two important events. Two political mobilizations, organized by the Authentic Liberal Radical Party [PLRA], took place in the interior of the country. One of them was held in Alfonso Loma, 120 km from Asuncion; and the other, held on 13 April, in San Jose de los Arroyos. In both cases security forces tried to block roads and prevent the people from gathering. But the civic force of these movements could not be controlled by security forces and the demonstrations were held amidst a violent repression conducted by the police forces.

The National Accord, which is an interparty Paraguayan democratic parties movement, is planning to hold another large civic rally on 14 May [the day of Paraguay's independence] in Asuncion to demand the restoration of democracy and support the national dialogue which has been instigated by the Catholic Church. [end recording]

PDC LEADER LUIS RESCK RETURNS AFTER 5-YEAR EXILE

PY202255 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2133 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Asuncion, 20 Apr (EFE) -- Luis Alfonso Resck, the exiled Paraguayan leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], today returned to Asuncion after 5 years in exile. He said he was returning "to help build democracy." Resck, 62, today returned to Paraguay from Buenos Aires. Last week the government of President Alfredo Stroessner lifted the order that sent him to exile in June 1981.

Resck said: "I am back without resentment, despite having suffered an unjust and painful exile." He was welcomed at the Asuncion airport by about 200 people amid strict police security that prevented many Resck sympathizers from getting to the airport. Resck, who was expelled by the government after supporting a Venezuelan congressional resolution condemning the Stroessner regime, indicated that "the Paraguayan people want to break the chains of oppression." He added: "We will be able to defeat corruption, lies and repression only if all Paraguayans unite around democracy through nonviolent acts." He went on to say that "the feeling of revolution is beginning to be felt deep in the souls of the Paraguayan people. A political change in accordance with the democratic ideals of the people is appearing."

Resck indicated that the Stroessner government "is breaking up" and suffering international pressures that favor a change of the regime that took over power in 1954. He added: "Paraguay must have a representative government of the people to become integrated into Latin America."

The PDC, which has not been legally recognized, interpreted Resck's return "as a contribution to the efforts of the multiparty National Accord and of the union organizations to achieve real democracy in Paraguay." Euclides Acevedo, a leader of renewal sector of Paraguayan social democracy, said that Resck's return is "the victory of the democratic resistance and the strength of the opposition and not of the weakness of the government." Emilio Forestieri, leader of the Radical Liberal Party (PLR), which is active in the government, said that "the primitive attitude of intolerance such as banishment and exile" is that which should be banished from Paraguay.

Representatives of the official Colorado Party said that they hope that Resck will act within the law and current political system.

In his first statements Resck also demanded that the government authorize the return of writer Augusto Roa Bastos and Domingo Laino, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA). Roa Bastos and Laino were expelled from Paraguay in 1982 and cannot return, said Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro on 16 April when he confirmed Resck's permission to return.

Resck, Roa Bastos, and Laino were three Paraguayans who were expressly prohibited from returning to Paraguay when the Stroessner government authorized in 1983 the return of people living in exile. On that occasion the leaders of the Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco), a dissident group of the official party who were expelled 20 years ago, decided to return.

LA TARDE Interview

PY221449 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 10

[Interveiw with PDC leader Luis Alfonso Resck by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Why do you think the government allowed you to return?

[Resck] I believe the reasons are very clear. First, there is growing internal pressure, that is, the people are undergoing a process of change based on their determination and on their own conviction. It should be pointed out that the people have always struggled. Paraguay has been brought to the attention of the world, which is no longer deceived by disinformation. Within our country the barrier of fear has been overcome. There has been strong international pressure, but this does not mean there has been any kind of interference.

[Question] Where did this foreign pressure come from?

[Resck] From the FRG Christian Democratic Party. It was exerted not only on behalf of Resck, but for the entire Paraguayan people. It has sought to promote a change toward a state of law and to let the exiles, particularly Domingo Laino, Augusto Roa Bastos, and Resck, return. The process began with me. I believe Laino and Roa Bastos will soon follow because the people need them and because there is strong international awareness and, consequently, stronger support.

[Question] How did the FRG Christian Democratic Party apply pressure?

[Resck] It exerted strong pressure through its members in the government. There are other interests which also applied pressure. This is how it works. I cannot give any more details because I have simply been told that I could return. I have learned about the action taken in response to the charges that we have leveled at international forums like the OAS and the United Nations, to which the FRG belongs. I believe that it is not merely a right but an ethical and civic responsibility on the part of the FRG, for which I express thanks. The FRG was not previously aware of the situation in our country. As a democratic country ruled by a Christian government, the FRG seeks to respect Paraguayan sovereignty.

[Question] Do you think the government will give you all the guarantees to freely pursue your political activities?

[Resck] Not only do I believe this, but I also believe I have the right and the obligation to develop my political activities. I will try to do it, seeking to promote integration on the basis of honorable coexistence and respect for human rights. Only if we unite will we succeed in this task, only if we want peace, built upon justice, the law, freedom, and the ethical and moral values which are undergoing a crisis. This crisis can be solved through a national dialogue with the honorable participation of all political and social sectors. If this is not achieved, other methods may be used, though not violence. Another solution could be civil disobedience. More than a right, this is an obligation.

STROESSNER CHIDES ROMERO ARZA, SEIFART

PY130243 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 12 Apr 86 p 12

[Excerpt] President Alfredo Stroessner yesterday made an important comment on the current political situation during a meeting with the presidents of 25 Colorado Party precincts of Asuncion, who gave him a document expressing the loyalty of the Colorado Party rank-and-file to his government. The president said that Carlos Romero Arza and Deputy Angel Roberto Seifart "are two young men acting as members of the opposition, who instead of talking of the goodness and achievements of our government are criticizing the party and the government."

This comment is more specific than the term "deserters," which the president used on 1 April after his message to Congress, in reference to comments by Romero Arza and Seifart in public meetings. The president also said that the Colorado Party will not be weakened by the appearance of deserters because the rank-and-file of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party, and the Party's Executive Board support the government.

The president also discussed with the Colorado Party precinct presidents the issue of the political vigilante group. The president said that because peace prevails in the republic, it is not necessary to reactivate that group. He added that there is complete tranquillity and that only if peace is at stake would there be a need to resort to political vigilante groups.

REACTIONS NOTED TO U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

Colorado Party Approves

PY191744 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 19 Apr 86

[From "The Voice of the Colorado Party" program]

[Excerpts] The democratic countries of the world should applaud and support the brave, firm, energetic, and appropriate decision of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in decidedly confronting the bloodthirsty and criminal terrorism headquartered in Libya. This decision implies the reassertion of a solid opposition, struggle, and combat against international terrorism, which is the armed branch of the insane communist doctrine. As our illustrious and outstanding leader, President Stroessner has always maintained one cannot fool around with the communists, with the subversive bandoliers, or with terrorism. On this issue one cannot beat around the bush: either we are firm in defending democracy and peace or weak and hesitant to the point of subjecting ourselves to the violence, anarchy, chaos, and misfortunes of Marxism.

For this reason one must support, contribute, and commend the brave attitude of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Only the useless idiots, the never-absent communist allies, or the mercenaries financed by subversion may criticize the chief of state of the leading nation of the western world. But we, Paraguayan citizens, and especially Colorado Party members, support his position, his decision, and resolution because communism is, has always been, and will continue to be the worst enemy of peace, liberty, justice, and democracy.

Terrorism is one of the worst plagues, and we must act against it as President Reagan did, with energy and determination, without hesitation or weakness. The free world must support the decision of the President of the United States, a country which through this action has finally abandoned that timid attitude it had maintained, especially during the sad times of peanut grower Carter when it granted the Soviet Union an unforgivable handicap which allowed the strengthening of the military tyranny in Cuba and created a new focus for the incubation of Marxism with Sandinism in Nicaragua.

The bitter experience of Jimmy Carter, the boss of that sinister Robert White [former ambassador to Paraguay], is now being bravely rectified by Ronald Reagan, and we are more than certain that with this appropriate anticommunist and antiterrorist reaction of the great northern nation, communist subversion -- that has been termed by President Stroessner as the cancer of the nations -- will start to crumble.

HOY Editorial Disapproves

PY161608 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 10

[Editorial by Humberto Dominguez Dibb: "Terrorism in the Name of Peace"]

[Text] The U.S. arrogance has reached such an alarming level that one cannot but repudiate it. What is currently happening in Libya is more proof that Reagan and his followers lost their minds a long time ago and that the Americans are trying to destroy the world.

If they try to fight terrorism with violence, they are doing nothing more than putting themselves in the position of those they repudiate. It should not be forgotten that terrorism from a gigantic state such as the U.S. Government is even more terrible and harmful.

Now that the world is enduring a commotion, it would have been nice to have heard the appeasing voice of the largest country in the West to guide the people's feeling toward world peace. In addition to appeasing words, it would have been good to have appeasing actions. However, things are very different. We are seeing the return of U.S. terrorism. It seems that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the bombings of defenseless German cities during Wrold War II, are not enough. The cowboy continues to make sad notches in his Colt's butt. But for how long?

The action against Tripoli really hurts the feelings of humanity because it was so treacherous. An attack cannot be carried out against a people under the pretext of putting an end to a regime or a leader. The defense of peace does not require criminal acts such as the air raid on a civilian population and the treacherous killing of innocent citizens. We must stop this outrage. The bloodshed unleashed by irrational actions such as the one carried out by the Americans against Libya, under whatever pretext, can soon spread in this world which has, for a long time, stood at the doorstep of disaster because the world powers do not know how to exercize their leadership responsibility.

It is really sad and disgusting to see events such as the one occuring in Libya. There is no struggle for peace there; it is just one more milestone of the many criminal acts that have been committed in the name of holy peace. On this sad occasion I convey my sincere condolences to the Libyan people because they are feeling, in their own flesh, the terrorism of which they are not guilty. Once again U.S. intervention appears where it is not necessary. Once again the United States takes upon itself the role of self-appointed protector. This is the same protective role that it wants to play in Paraguay. And, Mr Clyde Taylor, is this type of terrorism that your country takes to other parts of the world the one you want to bring here where the 6th Fleet can never come? Before that happens, the Paraguayan people will have to be destroyed. From now on, the Yankee Gringo Americans will have to watch out.

BRIEFS

NEW YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR -- Filip Matic, new ambassador of Yugoslavia in Paraguay, today presented his credentials to President General Alfredo Stroessner. [Excerpt] [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 13 PY]

ARMY OFFICER PUNISHED -- Asuncion, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Army Captain Sindulfo Cabanas has been retired -- not discharged or expelled -- from the Armed Forces by a military court that found him to be involved in a drug transaction of 4.2 kg of cocaine worth $20,000. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2208 GMT 12 Apr 86 PY]

COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PY221515 Lima America Television in Spanish 0215 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpts] According to Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez, who has paid an official visit to Peru, he and President Alan Garcia Perez have discussed issues related to the quest for peace in Central America.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Arias, what did you talk about with President Alan Garcia?

[Arias] The main issue was Central America, especially the quest for peace. [end recording]

Arias also went to Congress, where he was welcomed by Senate President Luis Alberto Sanchez, to whom the Costa Rican president-elect conveyed the greetings of his party's president, Jose Figueres. Before departing for his country, Oscar Arias held a press conference at the VIP room of Jorge Chavez International Airport, during which he announced the visit that Alan Garcia will pay to Costa Rica to attend his presidential inauguration on 8 May.

[Begin recording] [Arias] During this tour I have visited Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and now Peru. With this visit my short tour is over. We attach great importance not only to Contadora Group but also the the Support Group. The prestige of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and of the marvelous government and people of Peru, is very great throughout Latin America. The leaders of these countries today command a great deal of respect. I would like to say that I am very happy because President Alan Garcia has accepted our invitation to visit Costa Rica on 8 May when I will formally become president of the nation. On that occasion we will also have Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, as well as three other presidents from Contadora Group countries who have already confirmed that they will attend. This will be a very favorable opportunity to get together, 1 month before the deadline for signing the Contadora Document. I am very satisfied with this tour, because I believe it has given me the chance to make very important contacts that will help attain peace in Central America.

[Unidentified reporter] Besides the Latin American presidents of Argentina, Uruguay and Peru, have any other presidents confirmed their presence in Costa Rica and have any countries refused to sign the Contadora Document?

[Arias] So far no country has stated definitely that it will not sign. Nicaragua initially had some objections, but it has promised to reconsider its initial position after the meeting in Panama on 6 April, and we all hope that it will change its mind so that all Central American countries will be able to sign this document.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Arias] Once the Contadora document is signed there will be no further justification for U.S. military aid for the contras or for Soviet-Cuban aid to insurgent forces in Central America. I believe this is our main objective in signing this document. I would like to make it clear that we have declared Costa Rica neutral. This means that we do not want to get involved in belligerent activities in Central America. This is what we want, but more than a mere desire it is a promise: Under the Oscar Arias administration the territory of Costa Rica will never be used by irregular groups struggling against a Central American government. I will never consent to or tolerate this. [end recording]

REPORT ON VISIT BY COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

PY200219 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0019 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez said today that "a last effort must be made" to achieve peace in Central America and warned that "time, as well as patience, is running out." Arias Sanchez, 44, who is paying a 24-hour official visit to Uruguay, stated today that "there is no alternative but to sign the act" of Contadora for peace and cooperation in the area. Arias, who believes that the crisis in the region "is part of the East-West conflict," stated that "Damocles' sword hangs over Central America."

The Costa Rican president-elect met today with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti at the Anchorena residence, 200 km west of Montevideo, where he arrived this morning from Buenos Aires. Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, who attended the meeting, together with Costa Rican Foreign Minister-designate Rodrigo Madrigal, stated that the situation in Central America was the "major subject" of the meeting.

During a press conference in Montevideo, Arias Sanchez recalled that the Contadora and Support Groups met recently in Panama and set 6 June as the deadline for the signing of the act. The Costa Rican president-elect stated: "We must make one final effort. We Latin Americans must work fast to eliminate any obstacle that might prevent the signing of the act." He said that after that, "the most important thing will be to verify the act, to see that what was has been signed is fulfilled."

Asked about possible obstacles to the signing of the act, the future Costa Rican president criticized the attitude of the Sandinist government of Nicaragua, which refused to negotiate with the opposition and noted that "that attitude does not help by any means."

The president-elect stated that the Colombian, Venezuelan, Panamanian, Argentine, Peruvian, and Urguayan presidents will attend his inauguration on 8 May. Arias asserted that there is "no" chance that Costa Rica, which dismantled its army in 1948, will have an armed force again. He emphasized that during his administration, "we will make effective the neutral stance of our country."

Regarding the use of Costa Rican territory by anti-Sandinist rebels, Arias stated that if that occurred, it was always "behind the back" of the San Jose government and without its approval. The president-elect noted the difficulties of the Costa Rican police in controlling the 320-km border between the two countries and estimated that between 80 to 100 Nicaraguan citizens seek refuge in his country every day.

Uruguay, together with Argentina, Peru, and Brazil, forms the Support Group of the Contadora Group. Since 1983 the Contadora Group has been seeking a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis.

Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo tonight held a reception for Arias Sanchez. The Costa Rican president-elect is scheduled to leave Montevideo at 0900 tomorrow for Lima, where he will meet with Peruvian President Alan Garcia.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON U.S.-LIBYAN CONFLICT

PA222237 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 2

[Communique issued by the Secretariat of Foreign Relations in Mexico City on 16 April]

[Text] "The Mexican Government has observed with great concern the violent situation affecting the Mediterranean area, which endangers international peace and security. This regrettable situation has created unrest and consternation in the international community, as efforts to achieve a political solution and avoid an escalation of violence have failed.

"Mexico has repeatedly maintained that the use of force must not replace peaceful means to solve controversies, as established by international law, or the obligation to turn to the competent organizations within the United Nations. The United Nations is in charge of preventing violations of international law and, as the case may be, deciding the measures that should be adopted to punish illegal actions such as terrorism.

"On several occasions the Mexican Government has strongly condemned terrorist actions. Today it insists on the need for the international community to adopt effective measures to combat this despicable crime. The Mexican Government deplores the use of warlike or terrorist actions because, in addition to being contrary to the obligations assumed by the member-states of the United Nations in the San Francisco Charter, they are a serious threat to international peace and affect the fulfillment of international law and diplomatic negotiations, turning instead to the use of force as a means of solving conflicts.

"The Mexican Government calls on the sides in conflict to end their reciprocal actions of force, which can only aggravate the situation and cause the loss of more lives."

SECURITY MEASURES REINFORCED AT AIRPORTS

PA221935 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Security measures have been intensified since yesterday at the airport in Mexico City, as well as in other cities that will also be sites of the world soccer tournament. The Federal Highway Police will collaborate with the Airports and Auxiliary Services [Aeropuertos y Servicios Auxiliares] by providing 10 patrol cars and 1 helicopter to reinforce the security measures at the Benito Juarez Airport.

The five phases of the security plan to be implemented for the upcoming world soccer tournament should be complete by 30 May.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS -- President Miguel de la Madrid today announced that he had named the following new ambassadors: for Panama, Carlos Blanck Jinojose, and for Bulgaria, Jaime Fernandez Mcgregor. He also appointed Luisa Maria Leal consul general in Barcelona, Spain. [Summary] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0030 GMT 19 Apr 86 FL]

COSTA RICA

MONGE ON HABIB MEETING, ESQUIPULAS SUMMIT

PA221307 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib wanted to know the government's opinion and plans regarding the signing of the Contadora Group document for peace and cooperation in Central America, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has reported. Habib, who has visited Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, arrived in Costa Rica on 20 April. That evening he met with President Luis Alberto Monge and Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez.

Monge said they exchanged views on the regional crisis and that Mr Habib did not convey any specific message on U.S. policy. The president said that the idea of creating a Central American parliament is still unpolished. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has convoked a summit of Central American presidents to discuss regional matters. Monge believes that the outstanding issue on the Esquipulas summit agenda is the creation of the parliament. However, he believes that the concept has not been fully developed as it is not clear if the parliament will be elected by popular vote in each of the area countries or under the supervision of a Central American electoral tribunal. He briefed President Reagan's envoy, Mr Habib, on all of this.

Although President Monge acknowledged that Nicaragua's posture regarding the signing of the document was discussed during the meeting, he said no definite conclusion on what the Sandinists will do was reached. We must wait to see if Nicaragua changes its position and signs the peace document on 6 June. However, everything we said on the matter was speculative in nature, Monge said. He did not elaborate on the various topics he and Mr Habib discussed but did indicate that the Central American problem and the Contadora Group process for peace in the area were the main topics of the meeting. Habib left the country for Colombia and Venezuela. There were reports that he will go to Nicaragua.

MONGE: NO REQUEST FROM ENVOYS FOR MORE PROTECTION

PA221546 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has said that so far no embassy or diplomatic mission has requested special protection or greater vigilance. Despite the unfortunate explosion of the grenade near the U.S. consulate last week, Costa Rica continues to be viewed as a peaceful country, where terrorism has been unable to extend and sink its claws as it has unfortunately been able to do in other nations, the president added. President Monge said that public security authorities have made available to the diplomatic missions the protection that they might require, but for the time being he is not aware that they have requested any special vigilance.

REAGAN DECISION TO ATTACK LIBYA PRAISED

PA221955 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 14a

[Editorial: "In Legitimate Defense"]

[Excerpts] Whatever the political view about President Reagan and particularly about his decision to attack the backbone of world terrorism -- Al-Qadhdhafi -- there is no doubt that the U.S. leader acted with exceptional courage and clear coherence.

To these undeniable virtues as a statesman one must now add the legal and moral bases of his conduct in this historic episode. Since Reagan took office, he has branded Al-Qadhdhafi as the person responsible for all the misfortunes in northern Africa and as the band leader, mastermind, and bankroller of international terrorism. Al-Qadhdhafi has trained legions of terrorists and has poured his numerous resources into the groups and governments dedicated to terrorism in Latin America -- Nicaragua being one of his favorites -- Europe, or the Middle East.

If the attack against Libya on the Gulf of Sidra marked a new phase in the struggle against terrorism, the bombing of Al-Qadhdhafi's quarters the day before yesterday constitutes the culmination of an ongoing plan in which the principle of legitimate defense against terrorism stands out. This is not a new phase but the consolidation of a strategy supported by Article 51 of the UN Charter. In this regard, there is no doubt that there is a moral link between the UN resolutions on terrorism, human rights, peace, and the exercise of the right to legitimate defense against a state that proclaims itself terrorist and thus declares a constant state of war against mankind, particularly against the democratic nations.

In the 1930's Europe, fearing reprisals from Hitler, took cover behind silence and diplomatic rites of appeasement and signing of peace documents. Almost 50 years later mankind must choose between coexistence with terrorism -- a favorite arm of Marxism-Leninism or Islamic fundamentalism -- or survival through the exercise of the sacred right to legitimate defense either collectively or unilaterally. Once again it has been the United States which, in view of a socialist Europe, overcome by fear, opportunism, and the decline of its values, comes out in defense of civilization.

A new phase in the history of mankind since World War II might be beginning thanks to President Reagan: the forsaking or abandoning of the policy of fear in favor of the dignity and the rescue of man in the face of the reign of terrorism, Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism, autocratic despotism, and drug trafficking, the sole denominator of which is contempt for man.

FUTURE FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARIAS' S.A. TOUR

PA221556 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Future Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has denied that President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez' South American tour, which ended last night, had the objective of isolating the United States. He stressed that the topics discussed with the South American presidents and foreign ministers have been previously broached with the Reagan administration.

Madrigal Nieto said he was pleased with the results of the trip, and he stressed that the presidential summit proposed by Arias Sanchez on 8 May has the objective of seeking a formula for peace. The future foreign minister also said that the visit to Bolivia was canceled for protocol reasons and difficulties in the connecting flights. He explained that the possibility of visiting La Paz came up a day before the tour began and that, rather than being an official visit, it was going to be a technical stopover during which Arias Sanchez would speak with President Paz Estenssoro. However, when they arrived in South America it was seen that there were difficulties in getting the connecting flights and it would have meant a number of changes in the protocol of the countries visited. Madrigal Nieto also said that it would have been improper to visit a country that is a not a member of the Support Group because the tour was only to include the member countries of that group.

DIPLOMATS BRIEFED ON CONTADORA DEVELOPMENTS

PA221331 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has briefed the ambassadors of European countries on the Costa Rican Government's position regarding the Contadora process and the developments of the past several weeks. Gutierrez said that he used various documents to explain Costa Rica's position on the regional crisis and what is expected of the meeting of Central American presidents in late May in Esquipulas, Guatemala. Gutierrez gave the briefing at the prompting of various ambassadors who wished to be brought up to date on the peace process and the latest developments in the Contadora Group. The ambassadors of the Latin American countries will also be briefed, during a meeting set for Tuesday afternoon. The briefings seek to keep the ambassadors abreast of Costa Rica's position on each of the Contadora Group's actions for peace. Similar briefings were held several months ago. This way the ambassadors will be better equipped to inform their governments of developments here because they will have a better understanding of Costa Rica's position.

GUATEMALA

YOUTHS DEMONSTRATE AT EMBASSY IN SUPPORT OF REAGAN

PA222002 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Apr 86 p 3

[Text] A group of Guatemalan youths staged a brief demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala to express their support for President Ronald Reagan's policy toward Libya and to express their strong criticism of the behavior of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libyan chief of state who has been accused of supporting terrorist actions. The expressions of support for the "Reagan policy" were voiced shortly afternoon yesterday. This contrasted with the way the government of Christian Democrat Vinicio Cerezo viewed not only Libya's attitude but also the use of force by the powerful United States.

The youths carried placards and chanted slogans in favor of the U.S. Government. One stated: "Stop terrorism; we support Reagan-Bush." Another harshly criticized the action of the head of the Libyan people's revolution. Although the demonstrators did not interrupt vehicular traffic in front of the embassy on La Reforma Avenue and 7th Street in Zone 10, using a large sign, they asked motorists to honk their horns in support of their demonstration.

HONDURAS

MEXICAN PAPER INTERVIEWS AZCONA ON LIBYA, CONTRAS

PA221356 Paris AFP in Spanish 2044 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Apr (AFP) -- In an interview published today by the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said that "the elimination of Al-Qadhdhafi, who is a world threat," is necessary. "Any Libyan I catch, if I can, I will order executed. If a Libyan terrorist is arrested, he will not leave Honduras alive," the president stressed.

After defending the U.S. raid against Libya, Azcona Hoyo also described as morally justifiable President Ronald Reagan's request for funds from the U.S. Congress to support the contras in Nicaragua. "It is not amoral," Azcona Hoyo indicated, "if he believes that the current Nicaraguan Government represents a threat to the U.S. security and that Marxism might spread to Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico."

Azcona Hoyo denied that Honduras serves as the U.S. "springboard" to intervene in Nicaragua, and at the same time he said that he was powerless to expel the contras from the country. "Even if Honduras wanted to expel them from its territory," he added, "it would be extremely difficult, because they enter and leave the country through very rough terrain and an approximately 76-km long border."

President Clarifies Remarks

PA221910 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Interview with President Jose Azcona by Milton Mateo; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Mateo] We have President Azcona here with us. Sir: What can you tell about this?

[Azcona] I granted Mr Diaz an interview, and my tone during that interview was not as harsh as it appeared in the newspaper. The interview took place before the United States attacked Libya. I did not say and I maintain that Mr al-Qadhdhafi was a threat to world peace because of the threats he was making right and left that he would strike at the Americans and that he was going to attack U.S. bases in Spain, France, and Italy. This is indeed a threat to world peace.

With regard to the Libya affair, I stated in response to a question that cited reports that the Libyans were planning to stage acts of terrorism against Honduras that if we capture foreign terrorists in Honduras we will naturally apply the full weight of the law against them. The death penalty does not exist in Honduras. However, the law will be applied most rigorously against them, whether they are Libyans or any other nationality. No terrorist is entitled to come to Honduras to plant bombs or stage attacks.

[Mateo] Sir: Has the Honduran Government taken the necessary measures to deal with these threats?

[Azcona] Security measures have been adopted. However, I do not believe that the Libyans will come to Honduras to carry out acts of terrorism. I get the impression they are more interested in staging these in Europe. They are nearer. In any event, it seems that [words indistinct] are more attractive to them. I do not believe, however, that terrorists must be countered by treating them as they treat others, no matter where they come from, or whether they are right-wingers. No one has the right to kill others with impunity.

[Mateo] Sir: Are you saying that your statements were distorted?

[Azcona] Yes, to a certain extent. I continue to maintain that Mr al-Qadhdhafi is a threat to world peace, because -- and let me point out that I said this before the attack against Libya -- every day one reads about threats by this gentleman.

One reads that they are going to attack Americans on the streets, even in U.S. cities, that U.S. military bases in Europe and England would be the targets of Libya's bombs and missiles. A person who speaks like that is a threat to the world. I continue to maintain that.

[Mateo] The CBS network in the United States reported that President Ortega has advised you that Nicaragua would be invaded to fight the contras. [sentence as heard]

[Azcona] That is not true. President Ortega spoke with me....[changes thought] attempted to speak with me on Friday, no, on Saturday, and we were unable to speak. We spoke on Sunday. He called me to say that he knew that a meeting of vice presidents would take place in Costa Rica at the urging of President Monge and that they emphatically protested the fact that Nicaragua had not been invited. I took the opportunity to tell him that I knew that helicopters were flying over [Honduras]. At that precise moment we still did not have full confirmation of the incursion, but we did know that Nicaraguan helicopters were flying over Honduran territory and I told him about that. He said he knew nothing about that, to which I replied that he should check it out because the situation did in fact exist. The discussion was quite cordial and smooth. Neither of the two parties got upset. However, there was no reference to the other thing. That is impossible.

[Mateo] What about your admission that there definitely are contra camps in Honduras?

[Azcona] No. What I said was that the contras enter and leave Honduras, that the border is very long, that it runs along very rough, unpopulated terrain, and that it would be very costly for us to maintain 10 or 12 battalions there to guard the border. All that would do would be to cover the Sandinists' backs. We said that and we maintain it.

[Mateo] Does that mean that the Honduran Government continues to be a victim of misinformation internationally?

[Azcona] It is all quite clear. The Sandinist government exploits its situation very well. It portrays Nicaragua as a small country that is victim of a superpower, the United States. That gains sympathy for Nicaragua. Honduras is perceived as an ally of the superpower of the North, thus we generate less sympathy than the Sandinists. However, Honduras is the real victim because Honduras did not provoke that situation in Nicaragua. It is not our fault that refugees are abandoning Nicaragua in waves and coming to Honduras; that because of the problems on the border our people are having to abandon their home towns and settle in other places, creating many social problems. We are victims of the situation. It is not our fault that Somoza oppressed the Nicaraguan people for 25 years or that revolution turned into government that also [words indistinct].

That is not meddling in Nicaragua's affairs. [Words indistinct] freedoms. There must be a reason for the refugees and counterrevolution.

[Mateo] Does that mean that the Hondurans are victims of an aggression by the Salvadoran guerrillas and now by the Sandinists?

[Azcona] We have more or less resolved our political problems, though not our economic or social problems. We are attempting to resolve them. I believe that all of the Hondurans are intent on that and want to see those problems resolved. The other problems are a result of the domestic situations in the neighboring countries. We are not victims of any one, but of the irregular state of affairs in Central America. We have said this clearly. During the last meeting of the Contadora Group, our foreign secretary went to the last meeting ready to sign the Panama commitment with the consensus of the other countries of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. It appears that the Sandinist government instructed its foreign minister not to sign.

We have said time and again that Honduras wants to live in peace. We are not going to declare war on Nicaragua, nor will we be a springboard. However, neither will we devote the resources we have to covering the Sandinists' back. That would be a major stupidity in view of the many needs Honduras has.

[Mateo] Sir: Speaking of needs, will your administration be able to withstand the pressure and economic demands of the various groups?

[Azcona] We are examining the situation, making decisions. We will make progress. We are working. It is almost 2100 now and I am still in my office. Even if you do not want to believe it, I am currently examining the budget controls; I just finished reviewing the budget control for the first semester for all the independent government agencies and their expense accounts. I am also analyzing the budget controls for the ministries. I address all matters that must be dealt with.

As you can see we are working, and I am making sure my government team works. Naturally, the problems are serious ones. Perhaps not all of them will be resolved. We have already adopted many measures that we will report on 30 April to the farmers sector and industrialists. On 30 April I will appear before the country so that people see that it is not that the government is not working, as some have insinuated. We are working at full steam. We have taken measures that had not been taken in many years. We have the case of lumber, for example. The lumber sector wanted an opportunity to market lumber and no decision was made for 2 or 3 years. The decision was reached now. It is the same with the cotton industry and other things. We have opened 1,039 teaching positions this year. I have the list by departments before me. These are concrete measures.

[Mateo] Sir: Several days ago political and business leaders said that your government lacks direction.

[Azcona] [chuckles] Someone said that once, and it seems everybody else picked up on it. We have direction. We have always had it. During my campaign I defined my government action plan very clearly. However, they believe that a government action plan requires a 13- or 15-volume document. A government action plan is a diagnosis we obtained from Consulplan Higher Council of Economic Planning].

The measures and goals were taken from there. We have always had those goals. We said that this administration's priorities would be employment, education, health, land reform, housing, and urban development. All of this is taking shape. Concrete actions have already been taken in each of those areas. For example, in employment, we have created jobs in Secopt [Secretariat of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation]. Eight million [unit not specified] were alloted to develop small industry through the oil tab surplus. Out of that same fund 2 million were alloted to increase manpower in Secopt. We alloted 1.5 million for the civic center; 5 million for the INVA [not further identified] because the construction of housing fulfills two goals: On the one hand it helps alleviate the housing shortage, and it is the best source of employment for unskilled workers. Anyone can use a pick, shovel, and wheelbarrow. We have taken measures regarding the cotton industry to promote employment.

The measure on the meat, subsidizing the meat producer; the lumber affair. We are going to set into motion the fifth project to expand Cemento de Honduras. On Wednesday or Thursday we will have a meeting of the economic team to make that decision.

Regarding education, we have already taken concrete measures. The budget of revenue and expenses of the state for 1986 contemplated the creation of 400 teaching positions. We have opened 1,039 positions. That measure was already taken. Regarding health, the vaccination campaign already began. The national health policy has already been established. Consuplan has already established the nation's housing policy. The plan for employment is almost complete. It lists 44 projects. I do not see how people can say we are not working. Maybe there has been a lack of publicity. We have done poorly in that area, and will try to do something about this.

[Mateo] Has your press office failed you?

[Azcona] No. Perhaps we have failed in that regard.

[Mateo] Sir: The Honduran community is very concerned about the crime wave sweeping the country. Crimes are increasingly more brutal and dramatic, including the one that happened at El Hatillo, where five people were murdered. Are you concerned about this situation? Have you issued instructions to guarantee more vigilance throughout the country?

[Azcona] Today we spoke with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and with the commander of the Public Security Forces about this. The two, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez and Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez, are very concerned about this, because these are crimes without precedent in Honduras. There were usually crimes of passion or under the effects of alcohol. However, crimes like last Friday's, when five people were handcuffed and later murdered, with the apparent intention of burning the victims later, or crimes in which a house is set on fire, these crimes have not happened in Honduras before. We are certainly worried. I spoke with the president of the Supreme Court today and that court will apply a hard line, respecting our laws, naturally. The courts will sentence the convicts with the full rigor of the law.

[Mateo] It has been confirmed that you will go to Washington in June.

[Azcona] That is correct. I believe it will be in June because in May we will attend the inauguration of Costa Rica's president Arias. We also have the trip to Esquipulas for the summit of Central American presidents. We will go to the United States in June.

[Mateo] The microphones of Voz de Honduras are yours so you may add anything you like.

[Azcona] Greetings to the Honduran people. Be calm. We have problems, but the Hondurans must resolve them through effort. The government is working to resolve those big problems that are not easy to resolve. We have the best goodwill and desire to resolve them.

LABOR LEADER ON U.S. CONTRA AID, FOREIGN POLICY

PA221603 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 27

[Text] "We are not for or against the $100 million in aid that U.S. President Reagan is requesting for the Nicaraguan rebels. If that aid is used to find a political solution, it is acceptable. However, if it is for an armed confrontation it would foster even greater contradictions in the area," Felicito Avila said yesterday. Avila, secretary general of the General Central Organization of Workers (CGT), believes that anything that may draw us further away from a political solution, especially regarding Nicaragua, will have consequences that will involve all of Central America.

For that reason he felt that the aid that must be given by the various countries should be in the form of logistical support so the conflict is democratically solved.

When the labor leader was asked about how Honduras would become involved if the contra aid arrives, he said that in the face of any reinforcement of the anti-Sandinists they would have to find a place of refuge from which to engage in confrontation. In that case, if the neighboring countries lack a firm foreign policy, they will become involved. "Honduras urgently needs a firmer foreign policy, because it is locally and internationally known that it could become involved in the conflict. During the first days of this administration, nothing has been settled. Although President Jose Azcona has hinted at what his foreign policy will be, no benefits have been received," Avila said.

Likewise, he remarked that he concurs with President Jose Azcona Hoyo that Nicaraguans have the solution to their problems because they have a right to self-determination, but that the people need an accessible means to participate in decision-making process.

The labor leader said that the Contadora Group is the most reasonable path, as it is a Latin America force proposing political solutions. "When Nicaragua adopts a position alien to the Latin American context, it is responding to an East-West confrontation and is not on the path of a Central American solution," he said.

VICE PRESIDENT: CONTRAS 'EXCUSE' FOR SANDINISTS

PA221614 Paris AFP in Spanish 0007 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Apr (AFP) -- Vice President Jaime Rosenthal Oliva stated today that if the Nicaraguan guerrilla movement broke up, this would entail "serious internal problems for the Sandinist government," because the government is held together by using the contras as an excuse.

"The existence of the contras is keeping the Sandinists in power, because this gives them a pretext for keeping the people unemployed and with no economic development, based on this war situation that they themselves have created," he said. The Honduran Government recently acknowledged the presence of contra camps in the southern part of the country.

Meanwhile, Rosenthal Oliva said that Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica have already voiced their commitment to sign the Contadora document on 6 June and that, apparently, "Nicaragua will also sign it."

Rosenthal Oliva pointed out that during the forthcoming presidential summit to be held in Esquipulas on 23 May, the Central American presidents "will analyze the political situation with the purpose of achieving peace" in the area. "To this effect," he pointed out, "the other Central American countries are hoping the Nicaraguan Government will be understanding."

The Esquipulas meeting is for the purpose of discussing the creation of a Central American parliament and the possibility of reorganizing the CACM so that it will "operate and benefit all the peoples of the region on an equal basis."

ANALYSTS CRITICIZE PRESIDENT AZCONA'S CABINET

PA162007 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Excerpts] After being in office nearly 3 months, President Jose Azcona Hoyo's cabinet has not been able to do any better than the cabinet members of former President Roberto Suazo Cordoba. Some ministers are just obeying orders, others are opposed to labor unions, some are conservatives, and others are closely linked to the gasoline business. Radio America analysts have noted that of the entire cabinet, there are only three ministers who might do a good job, and some might soon be leaving their posts.

The analysis prepared by the Center of Honduran Documents adds that many of the secretaries of state were appointed due to political parties' recommendations or pressure. The influential secretary of the Presidency, Celeo Arias, has already given evidence of his lack of management, as his participation at the Cohdefor [Honduran Corporation for Forest Development] was a true disaster. Besides, the analysts point out, his appointment to the Security Council was not well-received by the Armed Forces.

Natural Resources Secretary Rodrigo Castillo has been regarded as a terrible administrator, and, according to the report, he is not trusted by some international organizations. Communications, Public Works, and Transportation Secretary Juan Fernando Lopez is considered an impulsive man who is well-known for his rash actions and strong opposition to the country's labor union movement. His only advantage is the fact he has good political support from the northern coastal area of the country.

The Center of Honduran Documents also describes Finance and Public Credit Secretary Efrain Bu Giron as the person least qualified for that post; he is not trusted by the president and is unable to negotiate well. Economy and Commerce Secretary Reginaldo Panting is the person who received the most important concession from Azcona for ALIPO [People's Liberal Alliance] and was appointed to please the northern coastal area businessmen. Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras will soon be leaving his post, as a result of the recent fall of his cousin, former Armed Forces Chief General Walter Lopez, who pressured for his appointment.

According to the same report, there are only three cabinet members who do not have a previous record of being poor managers or unqualified and might be able to do a good job: Public Health Secretary Ruben Villeda Bermudez, Public Education Secretary Elisa Valle de Martines, and Government and Justice Secretary Raul Elvir Colindres. Culture and Tourism Secretary Arturo Rendon was not analyzed in this interesting report.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the National Council of Honduran Workers and Peasants, Conoch, will demand a meeting with President Azcona Hoyo because the government has not fulfilled any of the promises made to that sector. The Azcona administration is ruining labor policies by carrying out mass dismissals; does not fulfill its foreign policy of remaining neutral in the region; and has not done anything with regard to agrarian reform. Likewise, the administration has not kept its promises in the fields of health, education, and housing, and therefore the group will demand a meeting prior to exerting pressure on the new regime.

Concerning foreign policy, Conoch feels that greater efforts must be made so that Honduras truly observes a neutrality doctrine, particularly in regard to Nicaragua's internal political problems. The group will demand a dignified stand in defense of our sovereignty when Honduras resorts to The Hague to present its border problem with El Salvador.

NICARAGUA

VICE PRESIDENT REITERATES STAND ON CONTADORA

PA221459 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] "The U.S. people's protests and the demonstrations by U.S. religious and intellectual sectors against the $100 million for the former Somozist guardsmen supported by President Ronald Reagan are important but unfortunately they are not enough because the struggle is very complex and the political manipulation is very strong." This was stated to EL NUEVO DIARIO by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, who said that all the discussions and the maneuvers in the U.S. Congress really have the same objective, which is the dismantling of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process. That is why, the vice president added, I do not see any possibility that the $100 million will not be approved, as long as that aggression continues.

"For peace to exist, the U.S. Government must stop attacking Nicaragua," he said, adding: "Nicaragua will sign the Contadora commitment document if the United States stops that aggression." "The meeting of vice presidents and presidents of the region in Guatemala will mainly show that the Central Americans, independent of the ideologies that we maintain, are capable of meeting to discuss our problems and to find solutions," Ramirez Mercado stated to EL NUEVO DIARIO. Sergio Ramirez Mercado stressed the importance of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo's proposal for a meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas on 18 May to find a solution to the common problems. Regarding the meeting, he said that the agenda has been approved to discuss the achievement of peace in the region as well as economic topics.

Regarding alleged statements by Brazilian diplomats to the effect that Nicaragua will sign the Contadora peace document, Vice President Ramirez Mercado reiterated the recent statements of President Daniel Ortega, who said that our country will continue the discussions in the Contadora Group, something that has been viewed as very positive by the members of that group and of the support group. Nevertheless, he said that the principle of simultaneity must be applied in the sense that Nicaragua would sign the document and the U.S. Government would stop all aggression against our country. He stressed that Nicaragua will not sign the document as long as the U.S. Government does not guarantee a stop to that unjust aggression. Regarding the exclusion of Nicaragua from the recent meeting of economic integration ministers of Central America in San Jose at the invitation of the outgoing Costa Rican Government, he commented that no agreement can be reached without the participation of our country. This viewpoint has been admitted by President Luis Alberto Monge, he said.

Ramirez Mercado told EL NUEVO DIARIO that after Nicaragua established its position on the signing of the Contadora document on Saturday, 12 April the revolutionary government got in touch with the Contadora Group and it has described Nicaragua's willingness to continue making efforts for reaching agreements that will lead to peace as excellent.

U.S. HOUSE REJECTION OF CONTRA AID 'TRICKERY'

PA190240 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Trickery Does Not Change Aggressiveness"]

[Text] The solution according to the typical politicking style in the U.S. Congress is represented by a barely concealed Democrat-Republican consensus to continue the war.

The rejection of the amendment for external budget allocations -- or complementary tax law -- which included the $100 million for the counterrevolutionaries, is a move to save these millions from Reagan's veto on the other measures included in the package rejected.

It could be said that Reagan has achieved an indirect political victory because his request is safe and will again be presented separately. In this way, the approval of the desired funds is only a matter of time. This does not pose any insurmountable obstacle for Reagan to continue war.

Everything will continue the same, in a "covert" way, as it has since 1981. Nothing essential has changed. The Democrats participated in Reagan's aggressive project through trickery, as it is traditional in the U.S. Congress. Consequently, we have no reason to imagine that the possibility of being more harshly and openly attacked by the United States has changed. This also means that with the possibility that the danger will take a more brutal shape. The Nicaraguan people must reaffirm their determination for defense with a greater commitment in the military (army, militias, self-defense in war zones, and contributions from the rearguard to the logistics of the war fronts) and the rearguard (production, civilian defense, political mobilization, and revolutionary vigilance).

All the people should be oriented to defense, fully aware that although the growing imperialist terrorism against Libya is a clear threat to our country, it will never be a deterrent to force us into surrender. We do not want this bloody blackmail against progressive mankind, and specifically against our country, to become a fateful reality, much less an occasion to surrender our banners of freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS 'INTIMIDATION,' 'BLACKMAIL'

PA192227 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 10

[Article by Ernesto Aburto M.]

[Text] Yesterday U.S. military engineers in Honduras completed construction of an airfield for large warplanes in Gracias a Dios Department, only 18 km from Nicaragua. The threatening infrastructure completes the first phase of the "Cabanas 86" maneuvers, which began last February with the participation of Honduras. In May the second phase will allow 4,500 Marines and an equal number of Honduran soldiers "to play war," with shelling and bombing as close to Nicaragua as the "Rigoberto Lopez Perez" stadium is to EL NUEVO DIARIO.

Ever since "Halcon-Vista" in 1981, the endless series of joint maneuvers have failed to frighten Nicaragua, but they have "acclimated" a little more than 80,000 marines for war in Central America. During the maneuvers military structures needed to invade Nicaragua were also installed in Honduras and El Salvador, and that is disturbing because of the current bombing of Libya and Congress' approval of aid the contras, which will be decided in the next few hours.

A historic base for today's intensive military maneuvers is the U.S. policy of intimidation and blackmail, which was shown in the increased aggression in 1983, when the contras increased the quantity and quality of their actions and President Reagan responded to the Nicaraguan peace proposal by rehearsing a blockade of our ports in the Atlantic and Pacific. A naval fleet headed by the aircraft carriers Ranger, and Coral Sea and the battleship New Jersey, participated in that "mock" blockade.

Immediately afterward, in that same year, the famous "Big Pine" I and II maneuvers began, with the construction of camps, airports and military roads near Nicaragua.

They created the conditions in Honduras for that country's Army to support El Salvador in its fight against the guerillas.

Actually, the year most plagued with joint military maneuvers was 1984. The "Guardians of the Gulf" maneuvers from May to June in the Golfo de Fonseca were intended to detect alleged Nicaraguan arms trafficking to the Salvadoran guerrillas. The so-called "Air-Sea" maneuvers involved the participation of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy and ended with tremendous bombing in the waters near Andres y Providencia. Likewise, operations "Lempira" and "Emergency Alert" and others were succeeded by the "Terencio Sierra" maneuvers in 1985 and the current "Cabanas" maneuvers.

Aggressive Achievements

The maneuvers have fulfilled tactical objectives that are hightly valued in the aggressive policy. The Pentagon says they have improved the capacity and technical ability to carry out multinational military operations in Central America, thereby continuing the "standardization" process of joint operational procedures with emphasis on amphibious landings and the transportation of troops by air.

Likewise, it has prepared the physical, political, and military conditions for the development of an invasion of Nicaragua and El Salvador, utilizing Honduran military power and whatever the contras could do. Finally, each maneuver has also served to strengthen the Honduran military arsenal and, in violation of the law, to improve the training of the contras, equip them better, and cover up their incursions into Nicaraguan territory.

Nicaragua Is Prepared

Nevertheless, Nicaragua is not frightened, and with outstanding calm it has so far avoided being entrapped by the military provocations that have sought to draw it into an unequal war. In fact, each maneuver has served for us to better evaluate the forces of the great aggressor, our defense preparations, and inflame the masses with revolutionary patriotism.

PPSC LEADER ON EFFECTS OF LIBYAN-U.S. CONFLICT

PA190146 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] "The FSLN must immediately implement extensive political measures, not to convince President Reagan, but to maintain the little international political space it has left," Mauricio Diaz, president of the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], has stated to LA PRENSA.

Analyzing the current international political situation, the PPSC leader said that the present situation in the Middle East must be viewed in the light of Nicaragua's foreign policy because if the United States decided to carry out a military action against a wealthy country with many military resources like Libya, a similar situation might also occur in Central America and particularly in Nicaragua, the political leader added.

"Everything that is taking place in the Mediterranean can have a harmful effect on the U.S.-Nicaraguan relations," Mauricio Diaz said, stressing: "There is fear and there are great possibilities that such military actions might occur in Central America and all of this must be linked with Nicaragua's refusal to sign the Contadora document." He added: "Nicaragua should have signed the Contadora document, despite some suppressive clauses in the document, because we believe that the state cannot be left defenseless."

Speaking on behalf of his party, Mauricio Diaz said: "We are convinced that it is through extensive political measures that the FSLN can create a defensive barrier against its international enemies and not through an intransigent stance that virtually isolates Nicaragua from the international community." "The FSLN should fulfill its promises of democratization, and instead of postponing the discussion of the new constitution and the so-called open town meetings it should advance the dates for this. Such a postponement is a bad sign because it shows tht the FSLN is not willing to give political answers to the discussion of the $100 million in the U.S. Congress, and this attitude might lead to the unleashing of military actions such as those that were taken against Libya," Mauricio Diaz of the PPSC stated.

PPSC 'SLIPPING' TOWARD U.S. STAND ON CONTADORA

PA221538 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], which until recently upheld a policy that opposed the government while defending the country's sovereignty, has been slipping toward the policies that the White House promotes against Nicaragua. The president of that party recently told this newscast that Nicaragua should sign the Contadora document without conditions, trusting U.S. imperialism's promise to stop the aggression if Nicaragua agrees to sign that peace treaty.

Mauricio Diaz stated that the Nicaraguan conflict is part of the East-West confrontation, thus supporting a thesis promoted by the U.S. President to discredit the Nicaraguan revolution and unite its allies against our country.

Political analysts in Nicaragua believe that this shift in policy by the PPSC is the result of pressures exerted by the international Christian Democratic Party through blackmail regarding the financial aid the international party gives to the party. They expressed concern that a party, which until recently struggled for the democratization and institutionalized legitimacy of the revolution, is letting itself be dragged into supporting the U.S. efforts to destroy the accomplishments of the Nicaraguan revolution. They saw the need to delve into an analysis of these postures so that the Nicaraguan people would not be deceived by these ideas, which are based on the proposal of a third option, which is supported by the parties of the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board and others, such as the Independent Liberal Party faction led by Virgilio Godoy.

D'ESCOTO HOLDS TALKS AT NONALIGNED MEETING

PA180424 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] New Delhi — The Latin American Group, GRULA, said in New Delhi that the danger of a direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua has increased alarmingly. This charge was included in the amendments that the GRULA approved today to be included in the final declaration of the ministerial meeting being held in New Delhi to prepare for the eighth summit of the Nonaligned Movement.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto is continuing with his intense diplomatic activity with his counterparts from the various continents participating at the meeting. Since his arrival in New Delhi, the head of Nicaraguan diplomacy has held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Tunisia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Uganda, Iran, and Ethiopia.

During these meetings, Foreign Minister D'Escoto spoke of the current situation of aggression experienced by Nicaragua; Nicaragua's position regarding the recent communique issued by Contadora; the upcoming summit of Central American presidents to be held in May in Guatemala; the government changes in the region; and the situation at the International Court of Justice of The Hague.

Comments on U.S.-Libya Conflict

BK191416 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, April 19 (AFP) -- Libya and Nicaragua both fired broadsides at the United States Saturday with the Libyan Foreign Minister telling a Non-aligned Movement meeting that "direct blows" should be aimed at the United States everywhere.

The previous speaker, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, accused the United States of unparalleled "savagery" in seeking to dominate other nations. Washington has proclaimed its right to lead covert actions against other governments, he said, but this was merely a "euphemism for murder, abductions, and terrorist actions perpetrated by gangs of murderers." He asked the forum: "Has a greater aberration, a greater savagery every been seen?" The bombing of Libya was "reprehensible" and showed up the "neo-fascism" of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Mr D'Escoto Brockman attacked the "insatiable greed" of U.S. economic domination and said that Mr Reagan had sent a clear message to Latin American countries: "Don't try to free yourselves, because you will suffer a lot."

He offered the Nicaraguan capital Managua as the site for the ninth non-aligned summit to be held in 1989, after the summit in Harare, Zimbabwe, this September. The selection of Managua would be a "deserved stimulus to our people to carry on the fight that has been going on in our country since 1979," he said.

PASTORA STATES WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE

PA222000 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 22 Apr 86 p C 8

[Text] San Jose (ANSA) -- Through a communique sent from Washington to an ANSA correspondent, Commander Eden Pastora Gomez (Comander Cero), rebel leader of ARDE, gave assurances yesterday morning that the speculations that he had been forced to abandon his secret shelter in the southern part of Nicaragua because of disagreements among the commanders in the general staff of ARDE "lack validity." Pastora, who admits that his forces have been very much reduced, stated, however, that he believes that in some regions of the Nicaraguan Atlantic coastal area, and very close to Nueva Guinea and Toro Bayo, his commanders continue fighting against the EPS in four clearly defined directions.

Further, Pastora added that although it is true that the EPS defeated him in Rio San Juan, if the U.S. Government seriously wanted to help ARDE, they could recover this territory quickly. Moreover, he said that several countries in America and several Cubans in exile in the United States have been helping him so his troops don't starve, but even so, their needs are severe. They lack everything except spirit, he said. Pastora stated that, despite all adversities and efforts that could be made to make him disappear from this earth, he will continue the struggle against the "Marxist totalitarism of the seven commanders that dominate Nicaragua."

UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON U.S. ATTACK NOTED

FL221650 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States, Great Britain, and France have once again used the veto in the UN Security Council to impede the approval of a proposed resolution condemning the armed terrorist aggression of the government of Ronald Reagan against the Libyan people, an aggression which constituted an evident violation of the UN Charter and the norms of international law. The proposed resolution presented to the Security Council had the support of nine countries and expressed the serious concern of the world community because of the threat to peace and security represented by the U.S. attacks against various Libyan cities. It called upon the Reagan government to desist from continuing to carry out its policy of force against other countries.

Despite the veto of the developed capitalist countries, the discussion of the proposed resolution in the Security Council, in which the representatives of more than 40 countries and international organizations participated, made it clear that the world community believes the Reagan government bears the greatest part of the blame for the tension that is endangering world peace. Without doubt, the debates reflected the insolent state terrorism practiced by the Washington government, which has raised it to the level of state policy within the framework of the doctrine of so-called neoglobalism.

Any people, any country can become the victim of that terrorist policy if they say no to the attempts of U.S. imperialism to establish its domination worldwide. If there is still anyone who doubts this, they should inform themselves about the announcement of new nuclear tests and the worsening of the situation in Central America, both of which reveal the militaristic and aggressive backbone of Yankee imperialism, in contrast with humanity's aspirations for peace and security.

CUBAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED

FL230110 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] A cooperation agreement for the present 5-year period was signed today at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship House by representatives from the two countries. Pilot-cosmonaut Vladimir Shatalov, chairman of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Society, and (Viktor Nirosiro), vice chairman of the America Department of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, signed the agreement on behalf of the Soviet Union, while Zoilo Marinello, president of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association, and Alfonso Guillen Zelaya, vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples, ICAP, signed on behalf of Cuba.

This is the third cooperation agreement, and it stresses the statements made at the last congresses of the two parties as well as the 5-year economic and social development plan and the activities dedicated in 1986 to the International Year of Peace.

MACHADO VENTURA CONCLUDES VISIT TO GDR

FL230220 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0204 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, has left the GDR and is returning to Cuba after participating in the 11th Socialist Unity Party of Germany Congress in Berlin. During his stay in the GDR, Machado Ventura and his delegation visited the [words indistinct] where they participated in a Solidarity-With-Cuba meeting, and they toured a ceramic factory in [name indistinct].

HART VISITS ANGOLA, BEGINS OFFICIAL TALKS

FL171320 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] In Luanda, Angola and Cuba have begun official talks headed by their respective culture ministers, Boaventura Cardoso and Armando Hart, who underscored the existing deep friendship and fraternal ties. Hart will be received today in separate meetings by Maria Mambo Cafe, minister of state for social and economic affairs, and Roberto Almeida, Central Committee ideology secretary of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT].

Praises Relations

FL181744 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos has said that relations between all countries, especially Third World countries, should be as warm and fraternal as the ties between Angola and Cuba. Since their arrival in Luanda, the delegation headed by Hart Davalos has been very active and has met with Angolan leaders including Roberto de Almeida, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the MPLA-PT.

JUSTICE MINISTER RETURNS FROM EUROPE, ASIA TRIP

FL211320 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban delegation headed by Central Committee member and Minister of Justice Juan Escalona has returned to Cuba after a tour of several European and South Asian countries. Escalona has expressed his satisfaction for the results of the cooperation agreements signed with the police organizations of the Czech and Slovak Republics and with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

VIETNAM'S LE DUAN SENDS MESSAGE TO CASTRO

PA210300 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Le Duan, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, has sent a message of congratulations to Cuban President Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Playa Giron victory. The document noted that Cuba now constitutes a strong bastion of socialism in the Western Hemisphere and a glowing example that inspires national liberation movements in Latin America and all over the world.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL

FL221300 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] In Havana Vice President of the Councils of State and Ministers Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received (Kenneth Datsy), secretary general of the UNCTAD, who is visiting our country. During the meeting the international economic situation was discussed, especially the effect of the crisis on developing countries and the ways in which developing countries are affected by the foreign debt.

CEMA MARITIME GROUP MEETS IN HAVANA

FL220200 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Cuba is presiding over the 49th CEMA meeting on maritime transportation cooperation and will present its experience at that meeting of the socialist community. The meeting of the Permanent Commission for Maritime Transportation began today in Havana's Hotel Atlantico and will conclude on 24 April with the signing of a protocol.

With the presence of maritime vice ministers from the USSR, GDR, Poland, CSSR, Vietnam, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Cuba, the agenda was presented, and it stressed, because of its importance, the program for scientific-technical cooperation and production until the year 2000. Other topics to be discussed include the use of robots, computers, and microprocessors in maritime transportation, as well as the use of combustible fuel and environmental protection.

JUSTICE MINISTERS ATTEND INFORMATION MEETING

FL220136 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The first Latin American justice ministers meeting on juristic information began this afternoon, attended by ten countries and two international organizations. Justice minister Juan Escalona Reguera greeted the visitors in the name of the Cuban Government and Communist Party.

The opening speech was given by Dr (Malferino Cabana), secretary general of the Conference of Latin American Justice Ministers. Among the topics of the meeting is the feasibility of computerization. The participants will analyze and discuss experiences by debating three areas of information: public registrations, legal documentation, and judicial efforts.

RAUL CASTRO INAUGURATES NEW SUGAR MILL

FL221816 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party, today presided over the inauguration of the Majibacoa Sugar Mill, the seventh built in Cuba by the revolution. Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the Politburo, gave the main address at the ceremony, which was attended by hundreds of construction workers and inhabitants of the Las Tunas municipality. Raul briefly visited the modern installation, estimated to be worth 60 million pesos, and witnessed the beginning of operations. When the mill is operating at capacity it will grind more than 600,000 arrobas of cane daily.

POLICE, STUDENTS CLASH IN SANTO DOMINGO

FL221606 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Clashes broke out in the Dominican Republic yesterday between police and students in Santo Domingo. Classes at the university have been suspended. The student protests followed earlier clashes between rival political groups that resulted in one death and a number of injuries. The man who died was shot by a candidate for the Senate. The violence was sparked by political groups campaigning for the upcoming May 16 election.

The ministers of the Armed Forces and the interior, as well the chief of the National Police, said in a declaration published in the national press that the government intelligence has allegedly discovered plans to disrupt the electoral climate, accusing the opposition of financing and masterminding the conspiracy. The communique states that these plans are intended to incite the public into repeating the riots of April 1984, when more than 100 people were shot and killed by the Army during protests against the government. The military also pledged to guarantee a peaceful transfer of power to whoever wins the election. Leaders of the three groups participating in the elections have accused each other of initiating the violence.

PRD LEADER URGES RECONCILIATION WITH PRSC

FL222236 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 15 Apr 86, p 1, 14

[By Octavio Mata Vargas]

[Excerpt] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez urged yesterday that a meeting be held between the leaders of the Social Christian Reformists Party (PRSC) and the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] to avoid the confrontations that are occurring between the members of those two political organizations. The representative (Sindico) of the national district and PRD president said the current electoral campaign could become violent if the situation is not checked. Pena Gomez believes that the "small incidents" that are occurring could increase and become intense during the campaign.

$7-MILLION LOAN CONTRACT SIGNED WITH JAPAN

FL112220 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 1 Apr 86 p 2

[By Tulio Navarrete]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Japan signed a loan contract amounting to $57 million (U.S.) (10,351,000,000 yen) which will be used to build the hydroelectric project El Torito-Los Veganos by the Dominican Electric Corporation [CDE]. According to the contract, the funds will be transferred to the Dominican Government through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. The loan is to be repaid in 8 years with a 7-year grace period and a 4.75-percent annual interest. The agreement will be carried out after the fund is convinced of the feasibility of the project.

The contract was signed by Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega Imbert on behalf of the Dominican Government and by Japanese Ambassador Suketaro Enomoto, who yesterday presented his credentials to President Salvador Jorge Blanco.

CARICOM APPROVES TRADE INFORMATION SYSTEM

FL222048 Bridgetown CANA in English 1618 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, April 22, CANA -- Agreement has been reached for the establishment of the Caribbean Trade Information System (Cartis), the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat said. The Secretariat said officials of Caricom ministries of trade representatives from export development-promotion agencies, and trade information units approved the facility at a workshop held in Barbados last month.

Cartis will comprise national trade information centres of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, a sub-regional centre with linkages in member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and a regional centre at the Caricom Secretariat. The workshop discussed how Cartis can provide information on the availability of commodities in the region, and the development of the system which it is envisaged would assist Caricom member states in establishing or strengthening their national trade information units.

DOMINICA

CHARLES CONCERNED ABOUT OPPOSITION LINKS TO LIBYA

FL222324 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominca, April 22, CANA — Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has again expressed concern about opposition links to Libya, saying their chief aim was to create trouble in Dominica. In a live call-in radio programme on the state-owned DBS radio last night, Miss Charles also pointed to the visit of some 24 young Dominicans to Libya in 1984. She also said that because Dominica had experienced two abortive coups over the last five years, the Libyans thought that the island was vulnerable.

Opposition leader Mike Douglas and his brother Rosie Douglas, also a parliamentarian, have admitted going to Libya but say their trips are in search of aid and are not aimed at destabilizing Dominica.

Charles said the main reason that the opposition was hand in glove with Libya (was) to get money to create trouble in Dominica. When the Dominicans went to Tripoli in 1982, the defunct left-wing Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance, which organized the trip, said the group was going to a university education, but Charles said the students were not qualified for university and she was sure they were not basking by the sea when some stayed for six weeks and others for six months.

The radio programme entitled Libya and Terrorism: The International Concern -- the local connection was to justify the Dominica Government's support for last weeks's United States air raid on Libya and to state its position with regards to international terrorism.

Attorney General Brian Alleyne, who was also on the radio panel, said Dominica must be concerned because of the close opposition links with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who himself had publicly vowed to carry out revolutionary activity around the world. Alleyne described terrorism as a thoroughly inhumane and animalistic type of activity... a cold-blooded destruction of life to achieve a political objective which is totally unconnected with the victim. No civilized world can justify this, he said.

Charles appealed to Dominicans to ensure that all citizens appreciate that democracy is a precious gift which must be protected. It was also an uncomfortable gift, she added because one allows freedom to people to do and say things. The Dominican prime minister told the radio audience that the government wanted to ensure that the people are well aware of what is happening so they can make up their minds and they can know that it is on them we must depend; it is with them that we will be able to defend this country...and it is with these strong people that this country can be kept safe and secure for Dominicans to enjoy. She declined to say whether the government was taking any formal security measures against terrorism but ruled out restrictions on Dominicans travelling to Libya. However Alleyne said they would be closely watched.

Some callers last night supported the governments position on Libya but others criticized the Charles administration for getting too involved in international affairs. The Dominican prime minister was charged with not influencing the United States President to take a strong anti-apartheid stand to which she responded that it was for the Africans to make the request. It isn't a matter of economic sanctions or bombing, Miss Charles said, adding I think we should just close down South Africa. We should allow nothing to go in, nothing to go out until the government is brought to their knees. But for that to happen, the black countries surrounding South Africa and the black people in South Africa must request us to do that...because they are the ones who are going to feel the hurt.

HAITI

3 CABINET MINISTERS RESIGN DUE TO UNREST

FL221622 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] In Haiti, three cabinet ministers have resigned because of unrest among public sector employees. The three had been appointed to their posts by the interim national governing council after the departure of former President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The minister of finance and economy sent his letter of resignation to the council last week, saying the economy of Haiti is beyond his ability to cope with after 28 years of Duvalierism. The minister of public works sent in a letter of resignation after he was physically assaulted by a mob which [words indistinct] after announcement that 2,000 jobs would be available. And the minister of health has resigned following a strike by doctors, interns, and staff at Haiti's General Hospital in Port-au-Prince. He said he was unable to come up with any solution for the complaints of inadequate facilities, insect and rodent infestation, shortage of medicine, food, and equipment, and poor working conditions.

DUVALIERIST COUP D'ETAT RUMORS CONTINUE

FL221505 Bridgetown CANA in English 1449 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Apr 22, CANA-REUTER -- A leading presidential candidate says a coup d'etat is possible in Haiti by supporters of exiled former President Jean-Claude Duvalier. The country is in danger, Pastro Silvio Claude, founder of the Christian Democratic Party of Haiti (PDCH), told a rally yesterday at the national palace after marching through the capital with 3,000 supporters.

Claude, one of about a dozen presidential candidates, told the rally that unless Ruling-Council President Lieutenant General Henri Namphy removes all Duvalierists from office, Haiti faced the prospect of being overrun by what he described as well-armed Tonton Macoutes, Duvalier's secret police.

Claude urged Haitians to support Namphy, the head of the ruling national council set up to run the country until general elections were held.

We know that General Namphy is acting in good faith, he told reporters following a four-hour pro-government demonstration. However, he's not at ease in his position and has allowed some former Duvalierists to retain power.

The march and rally climaxed several days of nationwide unrest. Scores of incidents have been reported, with crowds sacking properties of former Duvalierists, known criminals and homosexuals. In addition, strikes have plagued government and business amid a climate of uncertainty.

JAMAICA

SHEARER ASKS CARICOM TO DISCUSS LIBYAN CONFLICT

FL221455 Bridgetown CANA in English 1412 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 22, CANA -- Jamaica's Foreign Minister Hugh Shearer has called for international terrorism and the U.S. Libya conflict to be placed on the agenda for next month's Caricom foreign ministers meeting in Belize.

The Foreign Ministry announced that Shearer had written to St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds, current chairman of the Caricom Foreign Ministers Committee, asking for the issue to be put on the agenda.

The ministry statement was the first response of Jamaica, a close ally of the United States, to last week's American air raid on Tripoli.

We must all be deeply concerned about the recent escalation in terrorist activity and the development this crisis which worsens the already convulsive situation in the Middle East, Shearer told Simmonds.

The situation has serious implications for international peace and stability as well as for the security of the region, he added.

Shearer said it was therefore important for the Caribbean to consult on the issue and proposed that the discussions be thorough.

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ECLA ISSUES REPORT ON 'ECONOMIC CRISIS'

PA231729 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 13

[Excerpts] Amid the deepest and longest-lasting economic crisis Latin America has experienced this century -- characterized by severe deterioration in the standards of living, constrained investment and capital formation, high interest rates, and a strong drain of funds from the country -- the per capita income in Mexico has fallen almost 5 percent, and the value of salaries has decreased approximately 30 percent over the past 4 years.

ECLA reported this in a document released before the openning of that organization's 21st period of sessions, which will begin today. It adds that the Mexican economy grew only 2.5 percent in 1985 and that urban unemployment was 5 percent, much higher than that observed in 1980. The report indicates that Mexico is the Latin American country with most deposits abroad; in September 1985 these totalled $21.537 billion, almost one-third of the Mexican public debt.

ECLA reports that the national per capita income is the best indicator of current living standards. Mexico's fell 14 percent over the past 5 years as a result of the constant deterioration of the terms of exchange and the substantial increase in the net payment of interest and capital abroad, which totalled $100 billion over the past 4 years.

The reduction in Latin America's economic activities has particularly affected the formation of capital, to the extend that the crisis, in addition to damaging current living standards, also jeopardizes the possibilities of seeing a speedy recovery. It indicates that the investment rate has fallen to its lowest level of the past 40 years.

ECLA explained that from the point of view of equity and the satisfaction of basic needs, the economic crisis and the stabilization and adjustment programs implemented over the past several years have made an already worrisome situation worse. In this context, the report says that over the past 5 years unemployment rose moderately in Costa Rica and Mexico and significantly in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Honduras, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

In its study, the UN financial organization examined the impact that the sharp fall of capital income since 1982 and the simultaneous increase of the transfers have made on payments of services and interest abroad. This caused more than one-half of the negative balance in the current accounts of various countries to be financed through a reduction of international reserves. In addition to this, the differences between the income and expenses for payments on interest and profit is approximately 25 percent of the exports of goods and services.

In its report ECLA warns that at least until the end of this decade the economic growth of many of the area's countries will be contrained by the high level of indebtedness and the reticence that private commercial banks have been showing regarding increasing the flow of fresh financing. This will continue to affect the import capacity and further constrain the formation of fixed capital.

It is evident, then, according to the report, that the way in which the adjustment had been made is anachronistic and that from now on it will be necessary to implement policies that will allow coordination between the attainment of an external balance with economic reactivation.

The backbone of the adjustment will no longer be the indiscriminate reduction of domestic spending, but "the rapid expansion of export activities and import substitution." The need to reduce transfers of funds abroad is also set forth. Over the past 4 years interest rate payments have absorbed approximately 36 percent of the area's total exports, doubling the proportion paid before the crisis. It will also be imperative to have more foreign financing to resume sustained growth within the shortest possible time.

Meeting Opens in Mexico City

FL240142 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid made an urgent call today on the international community to restructure world economic relations and abandon theoretical (aprioristicas) formulas and rigid guidelines. Opening ECLA's 21st period of sessions, the Mexican leader stressed the need to adjust the foreign debt in accordance with debtor countries' abilities to pay.

Stating that Latin American countries are aware that the solution to their problems is their own responsibility, de la Madrid said that it is unrealistic to pretend that only domestic efforts and sacrifice, which imply decreased development and lower standards of living, will control the crisis. President De la Madrid said that world economic relations need to be restructured so that they simultaneously address the problems of the debt, financing and currency, trade fluctuations, exchange terms, technological support, and international cooperation in a responsible manner by the parties involved.

He also warned that the next few years will be critical for the region, so focus should be placed on debt servicing based on debtor countries' ability to pay, financial mechanisms, and cost reduction. The Mexican president added that debt considerations should also focus on openings in the market that would allow increased export capacity and strengthen growth, payments, and an international environment that would allow for operational and expeditious solutions for cooperation in various areas of the world economy.

De la Madrid proposed that ECLA analyze the scheme of economic stabilization which has been studied by various international organizations, to evaluate the efficiency of anti-inflationary policies and the time required for structural changes to contribute to economic stability. In the analysis, the president said, ECLA should stress a global solution to the Latin American debt problem and the creation of a new international financial system and share in promoting structural changes presented by several regional countries.

The Mexican president rejected a universal model that would solve the difficulties each nation confronts. We are confronting difficult times, he added, but we also are experiencing new opportunities to strengthen the rhythm of development. De la Madrid stressed that the peoples of Latin America reject foreign intervention that tries to mold their development. The Mexican president called for creditor countries to increase their responsibilities and sacrifices created by the foreign debt and said that this meeting supports important contributions to that effort.

NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WOUNDED IN ATTACK

PY231836 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Edgar Rosales Ligeron, the new Supreme Court justice who was shot at four times early this morning in Santa Cruz, has undergone a 5-hour operation. Our correspondent Fortunato Esquivel in Santa Cruz has the following report for us:

[Begin relay] At approximately 0100 today, Lawyer Edgar Rosales Ligeron, recently appointed Supreme Court justice, was attacked while returning home from a dinner hosted by his colleagues to celebrate his appointment.

Rosales Ligeron was shot at four times. One of the bullets hit his arm and another the right side of his chest. He was taken almost immediately to the Lourdes Clinic in Santa Cruz, where he underwent a 5-hour operation. Dr Rosales was supposed to be sworn in as Supreme Court justice tomorrow, 24 April. Santa Cruz Department Prefect Julio Prado Salmon, who returned to Santa Cruz last night, received the report this morning and ordered an in-depth investigation of the crime to determine the perpetrators. Prado Salmon stated that he has instructed the local police chief, Colonel Camacho, to conduct a thorough investigation. He added that there are some clues that could lead to the perpetrators. [end relay]

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court will ask the Interior Ministry to provide the broadest possible guarantees and protection for the justices, according to Supreme Court President Guillermo Caballero Saucedo, after learning of the attack on Rosales Ligeron. During a telephone conversation with this radio station from Sucre, Dr Caballero said that he was outraged by this attack and added that this was another example of the harassment to which the Supreme Court is being subjected, others being the groundless challenging of justices in the malfeasance trial of former Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON LIBYA RAID

PY231609 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry last night issued a communique by which the Bolivian Government "condemns all types of terrorism and any irrational behavior that causes death and injury of innocent people." The official statement was released in response to the attack Libya suffered at the hands of the United States "in retaliation for terrorist acts" attributed to the Libyans.

The communique states: "Faithful to the unvarying principles traditionally mentioned in international meetings and forums, the Bolivian Government condemns all types of terrorism and irrational behavior that causes the death or injury of innocent and defenseless people. It also deplores the implementation of unilateral punishment actions, which endanger world peace. The Bolivian Government also maintained a peaceful policy, considering that disagreements between nations must be solved through constructive dialogue, which enhances the possibility of creating a better, more just, and more balanced world, with no dependency or humiliation. Within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, Bolivia firmly ratifies its adherence to the antiterrorism principles of nonaggression and nonintervention in the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and self-determination.

"It adds that any armed aggression without a 'casus belli' aggravates the world situation and dangerously broadens the conflicts. In the International Year of Peace, Bolivia makes a fervent call to the parties involved in this painful problem to put aside all acts of violence, which can only generate more tension and create situations of unpredictable consequences for mankind."

DEFENSE MINISTER ON THREATS TO U.S. FACILITIES

PY232128 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] According to the defense and acting interior minister, the Bolivian Government will guarantee the security of all duly accredited diplomatic missions as provided for by the present Constitution. Valle made this statement today in response to questions dealing with alleged threats against diplomatic missions in La Paz. Minister Luis Fernando Valle discussed alleged threats received by U.S. and British Embassies following the U.S. Air Force raid against Libya's two largest cities.

[Begin recording] We were notified that both the United States and Great Britain received threats. It seems that certain sectors have publicly voiced their intention to take retaliatory action, in view of the U.S. raid on Libya. We believe that common sense will prevail, because the government knows that the Bolivian people have their own methods of struggle, and terrorism is not one of them. In our opinion, it is merely the way in which certain sectors verbally express their repudiation of the U.S. attack against Libya. [end recording]

The minister went on to say that, within the democratic framework in Bolivia, all duly accredited diplomatic missions have the right to state protection.

[Begin recording] I can tell you that we have, in conjunction with the intelligence community, the intelligence services of the police and the Armed Forces, implemented several security measures. We will supply protection when requested, but so far nobody has requested it. If any foreign diplomatic mission, or any Bolivian or foreign citizen feels threatened to any extent and asks the police authorities for protection, the Bolivian Police, in keeping with its constitutional duties, will supply the requested protection. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER ON MANEUVERS WITH U.S.

PY231540 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 15 Apr 86 p 4

[Text] Armed Forces Commander Raul Lopez Leyton yesterday said that "no person or group will oppose the 'Joint Forces-86' U.S.-Bolivian maneuvers because they have been approved by the honorable Congress." Several groups, particularly leftist groups, question the holding of joint military maneuvers in the Chapare and Valle Alto areas in Cochabamba. They are scheduled to take place from 26 April to 6 May, and 263 U.S. Marines and 1,000 men from the Bolivian Armed Forces will participate.

General Lopez Leyton's statement was in response to threats of terrorist acts by some sectors to protest the presence of U.S. troops. Lopez Leyton said: "Congress, which represents the will of the people, has granted proper authorization for the entry and transit of the troops who will arrive in Bolivia to participate in these maneuvers." The military chief said that the threats and warnings that have been issued by some sectors to impede the holding of these maneuvers are completely groundless.

It has been learned that the maneuvers will not cost the Bolivian military anything because they will be paid for by the Marines of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama.

Paratroopers from the Special Forces Training Center (CITE) in Cochabamba, troops from the Condores school in Sanadita, planes from the Bolivian Air Force (FAB), and members of the Bolivian Navy will take part in the maneuvers.

The U.S. Marines, a high percentage of whom will be doctors, instructors, mechanics, and engineers, and a small group of soldiers will arrive aboard a giant Galaxy transport plane, which will land at the Viru Viru International Airport in Santa Cruz.

The Galaxy will also transport three helicopters, which will be assembled in Santa Cruz. Later these helicopters will be taken to Cochabamba, site of the "Joint Forces" maneuvers, which will start 26 April and end 6 May.

INTEGRATION MINISTER ON ANDEAN PACT MEETING

PY232333 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Upon his return to Bolivia a couple of hours ago, Integration Minister Fernando Caceres expressed his disappointment with the results of the Andean Pact meeting held in Panama last week.

This morning the integration minister held a meeting with the president to inform him about his trip. Afterward, he told journalists accreditted to the government that the most important member-countries of the Andean Pact attended the Panama meeting, however the Bolivian proposals were not considered.

[Begin recording] I am frustrated by the results of this meeting which was attended by members and observers. Some progress was made at the meeting regarding the study of alternative plans for resolving trade problems within the Andean Pact, and there is a proposal to hold a meeting of alternate members of the Commission in Lima, Peru, in May [words indistinct] Cartagena Agreement Board. I have announced that Bolivia will not attend this meeting until those countries that are confronting bilateral problems resolve their problems. We are not willing to attend these meetings just to observe what is happening among the other countries, while the commission and its ministers do nothing about the problems affecting Bolivia. [end recording]

The integration minister also said that in view of the regrettable results of the Panama meeting, Bolivia has decided to suspend the foreign ministers meeting which was to take place within a few hours in Santa Cruz.

[Begin recording] In view of all this, I have suspended the Santa Cruz meeting which was to have studied in detail amendments to the protocol agreement. Consequently the Galapagos meeting at the foreign ministers and integration ministers level has been postponed indefinitely.

I want to reassert Bolivia's position. Until the bilateral trade problems, which are affecting some Andean Pact countries are resolved, there is no reason for us to attend these meetings as observers. Therefore, I reassert, and I believe that this is the first time I have used such a harsh tone, that I am not too happy about the results of the Panama meeting. [end recording]

The integration minister noted that no country benefitted from this meeting, and therefore he suggests that this pattern be changed to benefit all Andean countries.

BLACKOUT OCCURS DURING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Covers Santiago Area

PY232309 Paris AFP in Spanish 2252 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 23 Apr (AFP) -- A general blackout this afternoon affected the entire Santiago area, including Valparaiso and Vina del Mar, during student demonstrations against the Pinochet regime.

The blackout, which also affected La Moneda presidential palace and downtown Santiago, began at 1832 (2232 GMT), causing problems during the evening rush hour.

The blackout in Santiago lasted 4 minutes, affecting hospitals and the metropolitan train service.

Technical Failure Blamed

PY240229 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] We have more information on the blackout that occurred in Santiago tonight at 1830 [2230 GMT]. The following is a report by the National Electric Power, Inc [Endesa]:

The blackout, which started at 1830, affected areas from 2d to the 7the regions of the country -- from Taltal in the north to Parral in the south. Endesa denies any possibility that the blackout could have been caused by a terrorist attack and adds that it was due to a technical failure which still as not been isolated. Endesa provides energy to other distributing companies such as the Chilean Electric Company, in Santiago.

CIVIC ASSEMBLY TO LEAD ENTIRE OPPOSITION FRONT

PY210312 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 21 Apr 86

[By Juan Jorge Faundes]

[Excerpts] Santiago, 20 Apr (EFE) -- As of Saturday, 26 April, the Civic Assembly will be the organizational instrument for the social mobilization of all the Chilean opposition, excluding no one. What will its final objective be? Democracy. What will it exclude? Violence.

Interviewed today by EL MERCURIO, Christain Democrat Dr Juan Gonzalez, president of the Physicians' College, which is the promoter of the Civic Assembly,, said that the point is to unite "all the country's active forces" for a peaceful social mobilization aiming at ending the military regime and restoring full democracy. He added: "Our intention is for the Civic Assembly to be a rallying organization for all the citizens of the country."

Through actions that it will program and execute, the Civic Assembly will convey a message to the government and the military to gain a "true vision of the national reality" and to realize that "the situation cannot continue as it is." Dr Gonzalez said that the Civic Assembly will present the "demand of Chile" to Pinochet summed up in a word: democracy.

Gonzalez clearly states in the interview that if the government does not listen, the Civic Assembly will launch a program of civil disobedience that will include "a range of actions from sit-ins to strikes and boycotts." Former physician to late President Eduardo Frei (1964-1970), Dr Gonzalez is the choice of the opposition forces to be the man of consensus to head the concerted, massive, and peaceful offensive against the regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

According to a communique released today, the main organizations that have already expressed the support for the Civic Assembly, in addition to the Professionals' Colleges Federation which is the promoter, are: National Workers Command, Workers' Democratic Center, Retail Commerce Confederation, Peasants' National Commission, and the Neighborhoods' Coordinating Board. According to Dr Gonzalez, this represents "from 2.5 to 3 million people out of a labor force of 3 million in the whole country."

TEMUCO BISHOP PROTESTS CATHEDRAL OCCUPATION

PY240114 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1441 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 23 Apr (EFE) -- Temuco bishop Msgr Sergio Contreras today protested against the occupation of the Temuco cathedral by "plainclothes agents of the Army and the CNI" (National Intelligence Center of political police).

In his statement, Msgr Contreras protested the "successive occupations" of the main Catholic Church in Temuco, a city located 700 km south of Santiago. The occupation occurred on Tuesday when Chilean head of state General Augusto Pinochet began his visit to Temuco.

The clashes between the forces of order and demonstrators opposing Pinochet's visit resulted in 15 injuries, 100 detainees, and substantial damage resulting from the destruction of streets, squares, and parks.

In his statement, Msgr Contreras added that the people finally left the church on the orders of the governor of Temuco.

Temuco's two universities were occupied by students opposing General Pinochet's visit and several dissident demonstrations were held throughout the city during the day.

Concerning the incidents, Government Under Secretary General Colonel Jose Carrera has denied that the city is "militarized," stating that the actions were prompted "by 20 or 30 youths."

PINOCHET REJECTS CHANGING 1980 CONSTITUTION

PY240305 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Relay by Eliana Henriquez from Temuco]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today discarded any possibility of changing the present Constitution. The president spoke during a meeting with leaders of Angol, which is 120 km north of Temuco, on the 2d day of his tour throughout the 9th Region.

Pinochet reiterated that the same groups that created the conditions for Chileans to live the Marxist-Leninist experience of 1970-1973 are now offering solutions that have already failed.

He added that those groups who are motivated by political interests and power do not recognize the Chilean Constitution approved by the sovereign will of the people, because the new Constitution does not serve their purposes and this is why they want to change it.

[Begin Pinochet recording] How could something that has not yet been fully applied be reviewed or changed? What is happening is something else. These politicians, and I do not want to use an ugly word like bad politicians, except for very few exceptions, serve only the system of the political parties of the past. Why? Because the parties that emerged in 1925 after the 1924 military intervention with the approval of the 1923 Constitution did not have any restraints or any responsibilities. This was proven when the parties had to sign the statute of guarantees in view of Allende's election. [end recording]

Pinochet added that with the pact between Marxism and the other forces, they paved the way for communism. Pinochet also indicated that before the 1980 Constitution no one knew the origin or destination of the money received by the political parties. He said that this should not happen again because it was a national shame. He also emphasized that the current Constitution defines a political party and that later a special law will establish which parties will be recognized. He added that the parties will have to act publicly and that they will not be allowed to receive money from abroad.

Also, Under Secretary of the Interior Alberto Cardemil said today that several people came especially from Santiago to Temuco to promote disorders during the president's visit there yesterday. Cardemil added that there are several people at the disposal of the courts for disturbing public order. He also said that five people were injured during the demonstrations, one of them seriously when hit by rubber bullets used by the police to control the situation.

In relation to the blackout that hit a large part of the country around 1830 today, it should be pointed out that President Pinochet and his delegation were returning from Angol to Temuco at that time, therefore he was not aware of that event.

PDC'S MARTINEZ DENIES PACT WITH COMMUNISTS

PY230339 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Former communist deputy Luis Guastavino has stated in Lima that 11 days ago a pact was signed among all Chilean centrist and leftist organizations. He asserted that the main parties in the country are the Communist Party [PCCh] and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and that any democratic solution can be achieved only through accord between those two organizations.

In Chile, PDC vice chairman Gutemberg Martinez commented on Guastavino's statements on an alleged pact between the center and the left by saying:

[Begin recording] The PDC has said repeatedly that it makes political pacts only within the Democratic Alliance and that its fight for a steady democratic future is staged within the National Accord. There is no other political pact with any other political force unless it is participating in the Democratic Alliance and in the National Accord. [end recording]

Martinez also commented on Guastavino's statement that any democratic solution in the country can be achieved only through an accord between communists and democrats.

[Begin recording] We think it is important that all political forces truly advocating democracy against dictatorship, i.e. that choose to fight for democracy, participate in the future in a possible fight for a democratic solution. A choice for democracy means not only to wish for a democratic government for the country, but also to accept democratic rules. [end recording]

Martinez ended by adding that, based on these principles, all parties have the right and the duty to participate in the country's democratic life.

MDP, CHURCH LEADERS DISCUSS NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PY230400 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] At noon today the top leaders of the Popular Democratic Movement, MDP, met with Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, and in the afternoon with Msgr Bernardino Pineira and Sergio Contreras, chairman and secretary general of the Episcopate Council, respectively. We will now listen to a report by Alejandro Guille:

[Begin recording] During the last few years we have witnessed how certain people who have privileged access to public forums have been imposing on Chileans a way of behaving, thinking and even feeling. During the last few weeks they have become more overbearing and intent on establishing the legitimacy or illegitimacy of those with whom the church should or should not talk. Today, however two very special meetings took place: Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno talked with MDP's highest-ranking leaders for 33 minutes. In the afternoon, the MDP leaders met with Msgr Bernardino Pineira, chairman of the Episcopal Conference. On both occasions, German Correa, Jose Sanfuentes, Rafael Maroto, and Reinaldo Saenz told the prelates that they would like to inform them, personally about what they think of Chile's present reality because they do not have access to means of communication, and sometimes their statements are distorted. They also showed interest in the visit of Pope John Paul II to Chile, and again promised to do their best to ensure that the Pope arrives in a free, democratic, and peaceful Chile. They also reaffirmed their support of the Episcopate's document entitled "Justice or Violence," in which the bishops asked for justice, revision of the 1980 Constitution, and an accord among all Chileans.

According to observers, words cannot express the importance of these meetings: first, because they made it clear that the church's call for dialogue is addressed to all Chileans without exception; and second, because Msgr Fresno asked the MDP leaders to responsibly help build a free, democratic Chile, able to live in an authentic peace. The archbishop made it clear that what matters is to lead constructive, not destructive actions.

In conclusion, the two meetings taught us two things: first, the church does not exclude anyone from the dialogue; second, many personalities urgently need to become more humble, because they are not the spokesmen for an institution such as the church which embodies almost 2,000 years of history. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER REJECTS COUP POSSIBILITY

PA240433 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0354 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Bogota, 23 Apr (EFE) -- Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe today rejected the possibility of a coup d'etat in this country, which was predicted by the U.S. publication NEWSWEEK in its 14 April edition. "NEWSWEEK journalists are not correctly informed, or, better still, they are misinformed," said Vega Uribe to counter the publication's report, which asserted: "The military sector is already breathing heavily down the neck of President Belisario Betancur's civilian government."

Vega Uribe said during a news conference in Usaquen, a community near Bogota, that the weekly's "comments are an offense to the government and to President Betancur himself." According to NEWSWEEK, "there is a possibility of a coup" in Colombia, and, among other inaccuracies, it indicates that "the military sector has put tight restrictions on Betancur's maneuverability to explore the possibility of a peaceful arrangement with the guerrillas."

Vega Uribe stressed that he believes "in the peace pledges stated in the agreements with the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)," even though he believes that "his superiors must review its enforcement by the various fronts, because there are some deficiencies." Later he said: "The military sector in Colombia has never thought about a coup d'etat. Quite the contrary, we have been and will continue to be the guardians of its democracy, given our professionalism." He added: "We are in our places, all right."

PAREJO ON NEED TO AMEND EXTRADITION TREATY

PA240159 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 8

[Excerpts] Justice Minister Enrique Parejo Gonzalez has said that if the United States refuses to amend the extradition treaty, Colombia will denounce it before authorities in that country. He added that the struggle against drug trafficking is not completely successful due to the high level of corruption found in state security organizations. Parejo Gonzalez also said that he will not withdraw from the New Liberalism -- "which is the movement I support" -- and added that after 23 months of heading that ministry he has finally stopped receiving death threats from drug traffickers.

In statements to the Colombian Radio Group, Parejo Gonzalez announced the government's plan to denounce in the United States the treaty signed by the two countries if the Reagan administration insists on maintaining the agreement in its currrent form. The minister said: "We have participated in meetings with Washington on various occasions, and the last one is scheduled for this month or before the first part of May. I insist that this is the government's last opportunity to make the United States realize that the treaty needs changes." He added: "Should we fail in making them realize the need to introduce changes, we can still resort to international instruments, for example, to denounce the treaty."

However, he added that "that is a decision that must be made only by the president and the foreign minister at the appropriate moment. Should the treaty be denounced, the Montevideo Agreement, which was signed and ratified by Colombia and the United States, would be applicable to the extradition issue." He pointed out that the country cannot fight drug trafficking if it has to do without certain elements of the extradition treaty and reiterated the importance of trying crimes in the place they were committed.

PRESIDENT URGES 'MORALIZATION' OF ADMINISTRATION

PA231559 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] The people should respond with absolute freedom in the plebiscite of the first Sunday in June, President Leon Febres Cordero stated yesterday during speeches he delivered in Machala, Portobelo, and Zaruma, in El Oro Province. The president criticized those who take advantage of their military functions to upset the nation, warning that severe sanctions will be imposed on the slanderers. He urged those who have documents on irregularities to bring them forth to punish the guilty and thus lead to moralization of the administration.

He made these statements as he began a 2-day tour through El Oro Province to familiarize himself with the actions of the authorities of that border province. During the tour through the El Oro cantons the president turned over to local authorities several financial contributions for the execution of community projects, while he promised government support for more contributions.

In his speech in Pinas, the president said that to the government's material efforts one must add the struggle against a blind, harmful opposition that wants to paralyze the government by slandering and discrediting, without realizing or trying to ignore that in the end the people, who are the object of manipulatory, hateful schemes that the Ecuadoran mentality rejects, are the ones who get hurt.

FINANCE MINISTER ON IMPACT OF OIL CRISIS

PA231558 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] The national government had already foreseen that the Ecuadoran economy would vary as a result of the instability of oil prices, Finance Minister Francisco Swett Morales has said.

[Begin Swett recording, in progress] ...has taken the necessary provisions to minimize the impact to the greatest extent possible. It is not that there will not be an impact. If conditions had been appropriate, the Ecuadoran economy would have benefited from the measures taken throughout 1985. We could have experienced growth of approximately 6 percent in 1986; we could have lowered the inflation rate to levels under 15 percent and accumulated a net international monetary reserve of approximately $650 million.

The price of this situation is crisis. What we must do now is take the necessary provisions to stabilize the economy and advance the process to diversify sources of production, so that circumstances like this do not recur, and the Ecuadoran economy will not be affected, dependent, as it is now, on one or two products, but its exports will be diverse. [end recording]

Finance Minister Swett Morales reaffirmed that there will be no need to take other measures to stabilize the country's economy.

EDITORIAL WARNS U.S. AMBASSADOR ON INTERFERENCE

PY151557 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Apr 86 p 10

[Editorial by H.D.D.: "We Do Not Need Meddlers"]

[Text] We had a similar problem once: Someone by the name of Robert White. He used to walk the streets of a hospitable country that has the intention of becoming, if not a total, a partial democracy.

And I say partial democracy because I am convinced that Latin American is not yet prepared for total democracy. It would be like giving a shotgun to a monkey, and if the monkey has not been trained...?

All of a sudden, this man Robert White was declared persona non grata in this country, because of his not-fondly-remembered performance as a diplomat.

That man Robert White was then transferred to El Salvador. So, tell me, Mr Taylor, how is El Salvador doing now? And how, for that matter, are Honduras and Nicaragua!!!

So, what is it that you intend to accomplish by openly meddling in our internal problems, which are many?

We have many problems, but not as big as the one the United States has with Libya, for instance. And what can you, Mr Taylor, tell me about the great Central American drama, specifically in Nicaragua where your country is financing a guerrilla war against those whom the United States put in Government? And what happened in the Bay of Pigs? Why did the United States encourage hopes when it could not fulfill its part as a man should?

Yes, Sir. The North Americans are very good at fighting wars. But we do not want wars here; we do not want internal conflicts, although we have one in our hands now which is still controllable.

I can give you as a present, Mr Taylor, a book on the 1947 civil war in our country so that you can learn of the atrocities that were committed then. I can also give you a poem about a mother crying for her son who was killed by a brother. Yes, Mr Taylor, we know about many situations like this, and we do not want to live through them again. So you should take care of your own problems.

The U.S. flag was burned here once; something worse could happen next time. And the 6th Fleet will not be able to get here, because we do not have a coastline.

The Paraguayan people have matured and can look after their own destiny. They do not need any kind of tutelage. We Paraguayans know how to solve our own problems, calling upon our own character and wisdom.

I WARN YOU, Mr Taylor, as well as all those who consort with you, about the possible consequences of your interference in our country's internal affairs. We do not need meddlers.

[Signed] H.D.D. [Humberto Dominguez Dibb]

ECONOMY MINISTER DENIES PLANS FOR PRICE CONTROLS

PY212259 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro said that there is not now nor will there be any price controls. He said this during a press conference held after the first meeting with the national financing system. Alva also said that the process of reducing the number of dollar transactions is beginning to show good results.

[Begin recording, in progress] ...categorically, there is no price control, mainly because we did not attack the inflation problem the way it has been attacked in the past. We went to the very roots of this inflation process, which we have had to bear for a very long time, and which threatened to reach hyperinflation and climb to a 300, 400, or who knows what greater percentage. We first stabilized costs. Do not forget that in stabilizing costs, mainly the cost of money, an essential element in any economy, we were successful. You know that we reduced interest rates from 280 percent to 40 percent. This means that we reduced the production costs and mainly the cost of money, which is fundamental for the development of production and the services needed by society.

In this sense, when we stabilized costs we also stabilized prices. It occurred naturally because there was no reason to increase prices since we reduced costs and we had established the appropriate balances and necessary compensations. We must not forget that among the set of measures we adopted, we reduced the sales tax which certainly reduces the final cost and sales price. Our effort is aimed at defending the majority of the Peruvian people, the poor and humble people of our country. We wish to defend their real salaries and purchasing power. [end recording]

DEPUTY NOTES FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO TERRORISTS

PY231620 Paris AFP in Spanish 1514 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 23 Apr (AFP) -- Government Deputy Fernando Leon de Vivero stated today that the objective of the attack on the residence of U.S. Ambassador David Jordan on 21 April in Lima was to justify the donations coming from abroad to subversive groups. Leon de Vivero, who will become president of the Chamber of Deputies on 28 July -- appointed by the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APR], which has an absolute majority in congress -- stated that public collections are conducted in France, Sweden, the United States, and other countries to maintain the seditious movements in our country. Foreign news agencies exaggerate these events, and the terrorist cells thus justify the aid they receive from abroad, Leon de Vivero stated.

Asked about measures the Peruvian Government is adopting regarding this situation, he said that he understands that the Foreign Ministry is conducting the necessary negotiations to neutralize these collections and sending dollars to Peru.

Soviet Ambassador to Peru Anatoliy Filatov has told the local press he was not aware of the details of the attack on the U.S. ambassador's residence and recalled that his government issued an official statement condemning the U.S. attack on Libya.

Meanwhile, some 100 suspects were detained in a huge police operation to identify the perpetrators of the attack, claimed by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and considered the first attack in the country against the United States for its attack on Libya.

LUSINCHI INVOKES CONTINGENCY CLAUSE TO REFINANCE

PA231727 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1627 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Statement by President Jaime Lusinchi following a meeting with his cabinet in Caracas "a few minutes ago" — recorded]

[Text] In view of the country's serious economic situation, particularly as a result of the prolonged and marked decrease in oil prices, I wish to notify the Venezuelan people that, making use of the sovereign rights of Venezuela and following a cabinet session, I have decided to renegotiate the terms of the country's foreign debt with the creditor banks.

The Republic of Venezuela will immediately notify the corresponding financing organizations that we have invoked the contingency clause provided for by the agreement for refinancing the debt dated 26 February 1986.

In my message to National Congress on 12 March I told the nation, and I have said it several times since, that we would shortly resort to the contingency clause as soon as we had stable conditions on the oil market, judging from the constant evaluations we were making.

We would then request a broad revision of the agreed terms and adjust them to new parameters according to our real payment capacity, the interests, our development and well-being, as well as to the terms of a well-understood international justice.

We have also said on several occasions that we were given loans based on our oil, and we will pay them back based on our oil. To meet such conditions and subject to these principles, my government has carried out a responsible evaluation of the current situation.

Undoubtedly, the conditions are proper for invoking the contingency clause, and

erefore we have decided to carry on without delay.

Likewise, on several occasions we have notified the creditor banks and the industrialized countries' governments where these banks operate that Venezuela is willing to honor its legitimate commitments, but we are not willing to do this at the expense of the well-being of our people and the country's social and economic development.

The debt must be handled according to our country's growth and development. Otherwise, it will not benefit anyone, not even the creditor banks that need prosperous countries in order to recover their loans.

Today I must insist that I must assure the adequate flow of financing for development that will enable our countries to surpass the current economic crisis for the benefit of the world economy. Based on this concept, we have been taking actions and will continue to take actions in solidarity with the other Latin American countries.

We thus fulfill our commitments and today we wish to announce this to the Venezuelan people.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO STOP CANAL TREATY CHANGES

PA221840 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 22 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Jaime Beitia]

[Text] The Panamanian Government has adopted a series of measures to convince the U.S. President to abolish Law 96-70, which contains more than 50 amendments to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias said that work has been going on for several months in that regard, because the law violates the letter and spirit of the canal treaties signed in September 1977.

He said that diplomatic pressure is among the measures adopted, and that a campaign at the international level with a deep political content has been planned to achieve that objective. He also said that the Panamanian Government intends to pursue in depth other claims that have to do with liquor sales, advance retirement, and tax payments in contracts like those signed between the United States, through the Panama Canal Commission, and U.S. and Panamanian contractors.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Abadia was confident that Panama will recover the $60 million that the U.S. Government owes in annual surpluses, as provided for in the Torrijos-Carter Treaty.

PNP CONDEMNS U.S. ATTACK AGAINST LIBYA

PA181723 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 4

["Jacobin Notebooks by Marat" column]

[Text] We will publish in two parts a communique issued by the Popular Nationalist Party [PNP].

The PNP fulfills its responsibility and duty to express its opinion and guide the Panamanian people regarding the U.S. military forces' attack against the Libyan people and territory which affects world peace and security:

First: We believe that this U.S. act of war is internal or international. [sentence as published]

Second: The pretext used by the U.S. Government to become a self-proclaimed repressor of terrorism is untenable, because mankind has the means and institutions to adopt he measures or sanctions against any country that attacks world peace and security. If the U.S. Government had or has proof of the alleged links between the Libyan Government and terrorist actions, the logical and sensible thing would be, in view of the powerful U.S. political, economic, and diplomatic influence, to promote and obtain in the United Nations international condemnation and effective sanctions against such ties, something that the international community would have accepted. Nevertheless, despite its efforts and claims about the alleged proof, the United States was able to get only the British Government to join in this war action. That is why the PNP joins the people and governments both in Europe and the United States as well as the rest of the world in condemning this kind of aggressive action that constitutes an attack on international security and peaceful coexistence.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN PRESIDENTS TO ATTEND ARIAS INAUGURATION

PA232143 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Approximately 14 heads of state will attend Oscar Arias' swearing-in ceremony on 8 May. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, and Honduran President Jose Azcona have confirmed their attendance.

Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco, Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero, Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel, and Rafael Hernandez Colon, governor of Puerto Rico, will also attend the ceremony.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge will hand over the office of president to Oscar Arias. Monge and Arias are both members of the National Liberation Party, a social democratic party that is a member of Socialist International.

The commission responsible for organizing the transfer of power ceremony hopes to receive word shortly from the European delegations and the U.S. delegation regarding their attendance. A few days ago President Monge said that U.S. Vice President George Bush would probably head the U.S. delegation that also includes Philip Habib, U.S. special envoy to Central America.

NEW ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE WITH IMF

PA231543 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Finance Minister Porfirio Morera has reported that the standby agreement signed with the IMF in March 1985 expired in mid-April. Therefore, he said, it was agreed with the IMF and the various international multilateral institutions that the authorities of the next administration will have to negotiate a third agreement.

The finance minister said that the high deficit of the Central Bank is one of the most difficult points in the negotiation with the IMF. He said that adequate formulas must be sought to gradually resolve this problem. He indicated with regard to the finances of the public sector that they registered a 1.5-percent deficit in relation to the gross domestic product. He stressed that the fact that the deficit is close to zero becomes what is known as adjustment fatigue [fatiga del ajuste] and one of the main financial problems. [sentence as heard]

The minister said that new negotiations must be undertaken with the IMF on monetary, exchange, credit, and interest rate aspects. Another point to be discussed in the negotiations is the additional revenue from the increase in the coffee prices and the drop in petroleum prices.

The finance minister said that the country will also have to wait to see what the IDB will do with regard to the Baker Plan. As is known, a meeting will soon be held in Argentina where the committee of the IDB governors' assembly will decide if it will demand economic conditions from countries in order to grant loans.

The finance minister said that Costa Rica signed the first standby agreement with the IMF for the period from December 1982 to November 1983 and the second from March 1985 to April 1986, which expired in mid-April.

DIS ARRESTS CUBANS, COSTA RICAN COLONEL

PA240306 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] The Intelligence and Security Directorate, DIS, is investigating the arrest of some Cuban citizens and a Costa Rican colonel caught carrying Cuban passports. Costa Rican Security Minister Benjamin Piza said that he is not very well informed on this matter and was not able to give the name of the Costa Rican colonel who was arrested. However, Minister Piza said that once the matter is clarified, the correct information will be disclosed.

ARDE'S CHAMORRO ARRESTED BY DIS IN GUANACASTE

PA240305 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] ARDE leader Adolfo Chamorro, Popo, is in the custody of the Intelligence and Security Directorate [DIS]. Chamorro was arrested this morning in Guanacaste where he arrived in a light airplane with two unidentified men [words indistinct].

Costa Rican Security Minster Benjamin Piza said that Chamorro's situation is under investigation and at this moment nothing can be said about this matter.

More than a year ago the Costa Rican Government expelled Popo Chamorro from the country after he broke the country's laws. Based on this [words indistinct] the DIS arrested him and the two people who accompanied him. In this situation, they should be deported by our authorities, however, a previous investigation into his entry and the reasons for this are necessary, the security minister said.

The DIS is investigating why Chamorro entered the country clandestinely. One of the possibilities under investigation is that he was bringing a large amount of drugs; therefore, it is believed that his trip was for drug trafficking. However, this was not confirmed by Minister Piza, who added that the situation in general is under investigation.

The Southern Opposition Bloc's [BOS] official version is that Adolfo Chamorro, Popo, the counterrevolutionary leader arrested by the Costa Rican authorities today in Guanacaste, was trying to resolve the problem that has hindered his free transit in Costa Rica. Last year Chamorro was expelled from Costa Rica following a news conference held at the Ambassador Hotel during which he asked the Costa Rican people for economic aid for the ARDE combatants.

According to BOS leader Jose Davila, Popo Chamorro came to Costa Rica within the framework of a request for free entry to this country. It was also said that Chamorro would meet with BOS leaders. Adolfo Chamorro is currently a political member of this anti-Sandinist organization.

Jose Davila said the DIS is investigating Chamorro, however, once the investigation has been completed, he will be deported to Miami since that is where he lives.

Davila also emphatically denied any involvement between BOS and international drug trafficking. The BOS leader said that to link a counterrevolutionary with drugs is slanderous because BOS, as well as ARDE, would never be involved in such a criminal action. Davila said that out of respect for Costa Rica and its laws, that protect the members of BOS, they could never approve of drug trafficking because their only goal is to struggle to achieve democracy for Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS TO ADVISE BORDER COMMISSION

PA232137 San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Deputy Foriegn Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta today reported the results of his trip to London during which two international lawyers were contracted to advise the Salvadoran border commission.

[Begin recording] In London we contacted our international advisers, Dr (?Lautrethal) from Cambridge, Dr [name indistinct] (?Bayles) from the University of Paris, and Dr (?Miguel Ederechega), who is already a Salvadoran Foreign Ministry adviser on border issues. We established the bases upon which we will work when stating our demands before the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. Our advisers have given us adequate counsel, and we have established permanent contact with them so that we can work continuously until the conflict is solved at the Hague. [end recording]

The deputy foreign minister also said that after visiting London he traveled to the Netherlands to meet with the president, vice president, and justices of the ICJ, who said they support the Salvadoran Government's peaceful intentions of arriving at an agreement with Honduras. He added that El Salvador will install an embassy at The Hague.

HONDURAS

AZCONA DISCUSSES NICARAGUA, U.S. AID, CONTRAS

PA232230 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2111 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo today reiterated that Honduras does not want a war with Nicaragua, nor will it lend its territory for foreign forces to invade that country. The president said that the Honduran Army will never cross into Nicaraguan territory to kill Nicaraguan soldiers. The president stressed that the domestic situation in Nicaragua was not provoked by Honduras or any other Central American nation. "Quite the contrary," Azcona said, "Honduras is a victim of the domestic conflict experienced by Nicaragua since there are thousands of Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras whom we must take care of for humanitarian reasons.

Honduras would not have the problem of Nicaraguan refugees and "counterrevolutionaries" if there were peace in that country, the president added. During a news conference with foreign correspondents, Azcona asked for objectivity; "that the information not be the result of what the correspondent probably thinks the president thinks," were the president's opening words.

Dressed in gray and seated before the correspondents, President Azcona answered questions for over an hour. During the news conference President Azcona did not hold back his feelings toward a Mexican correspondent who last week "distorted" some of the president's statements when they were talking "without a microphone and like friends."

Regarding the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, Azcona said that they must be in their country: "We have always said that there is no reason for them to be in Honduras." He said that if the United States approves any aid for the Nicaraguan rebels, this aid does not necessarily have to pass through Honduras. He thinks the United States could well use any airport in any of the other Central American countries or any other means to send this aid to the "counterrevolutionaries."

He reiterated that Honduras will not spend money to keep watch over its border with Nicaragua in the first place because it is very extensive -- 717 km long -- and in the second place because Honduras needs to invest in health, education, and other areas.

Azcona indicated that at present he can speak of absolute independence because even the United States requires allies to operate all over the world. He recalled that, in its recent attack against Libya, the United States required the UK's support. The president said: I can hardly imagine that the U.S. bombers did not cross over the territories of other European countries to reach Libya." [quotation marks as received] Azcona said: This is why it is strange that many countries in the world are concerned about Honduras' getting and accepting the U.S. aid, when Honduras lacks the money to carry out many works.

More on News Conference

PA240030 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2159 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo today denied that a U.S. pilot was wounded at the border with Nicaragua in confrontations with Nicaraguan troops during Holy Week. The president said that "had this been true there would be no reason to keep this a secret because U.S. pilots flew the U.S.-made helicopters that transfered Honduran troops to that combat zone." "Wounded people are reported in all combat zones, and bullets do not choose nationalities. Therefore, militarily speaking, it would not have been uncommon or surprising for a U.S. pilot to be wounded in the combat zone he was in," the president added.

Azcona today held a lengthy news conference with foreign correspondents. The news conference was held at the Presidential Palace, and it was President Azcona's first news conference with foreign correspondents. Azcona said his government had asked the United States for logistic support in face of an incursion by Nicaraguan soldiers, in March. This was done "based on the security agreements Honduras has signed with the United States." Azcona added that "we will request this aid whenever we need it by invoking the treaties because this was the reason for signing those commitments. We do not have enough aircraft to rapidly deploy our troops."

During the war crisis that Honduras experienced in March, the United States lent its helicopters and pilots to deploy Honduran troops to the combat zones. U.S. President Ronald Reagan also approved up to $20 million in additional military emergency aid to the Honduran Army. Azcona said that "we asked only for help in deploying troops to the area, however, the U.S. considered the $20 million in equipment and war material necessary, so they gave it to us, and why should we refuse it?" "I insist that every time that our troops need to be deployed on an emergency basis we will ask the United States for logistical aid, because we are not going to send soldiers to fight after putting them through a 6-day trip by land," the president said.

Comments on Contadora Plan

PA240146 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2318 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo said here today that has country is not going to unilaterally abide by the Contadora peace plan for Central America. "Honduras is willing to comply with the spirit and letter of the Contadora peace plan in every aspect if the other cosignatories do the same," President Azcona told newsmen.

Azcona said that "the Hondurans will sign the peace plan, we will comply with it, and we will open our doors to international verification and we hope Nicaragua does the same, because if it does not, we are not going to comply with any of the things we agreed on."

President Azcona said his country has always sought a global negotiated solution to the Central America crises and has been willing to reach an agreement and has not placed any obstacles to the solutions, but it cannot make a unilateral sacrifice. He also said that 'if Nicaragua signs the peace plan and complies with the agreement along with the other cosignatories, the foreign troops and advisers will leave the country," However, he said that the peace plan is opposed to the presence of regular "foreign troops but not to armed groups which are not officially recognized by any country as a regular Army."

President Azcona said that Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary troops come and go in Honduran territory "because our border is too large and wild to control 100 percent." "We are not going to use resources which we need for our development, to have troops guarding the backs of the Sandinists, nevertheless, I have always said that the Nicaraguans should fight in Nicaragua," Azcona said.

Azcona admitted that the members of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela -- "have made a great effort on behalf of peace in Central America, and we are going to sign the peace plan with the other countries, even if the agreements we have approved will be effective only if the others do their part and if Nicaragua signs it."

FURTHER ON AZCONA INTERVIEW IN EXCELSIOR

PA231401 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Apr (EFE) -- In an interview published today by the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR, Honduran President Jose Azcona criticized the Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments and reiterated his support for the Contadora Group's efforts in Central America. "I am glad that the Nicaraguan regime has not consolidated, because it is based on a dogmatic system and because it is an extraneous body -- the same as Cuba -- in Latin America," Azcona said.

In an interview granted in Tegucigalpa to Regino Diaz Redondo, director of EXCELSIOR, which is one of the oldest Mexican newspapers, Azcona said: "Nicaragua is an extraneous element in Central America, just like Cuba. The latter has survived because it is an island." "We are trying to soften the Nicaraguans in the sense that they should offer a positive solution, within the framework of democracy, to that country's internal problem. We want them to realize that they are not going to get anywhere if they continue on the same path," the Honduran president added. Azcona asked: "Why can't (Daniel) Ortega say yes, we are going to democratize Nicaragua? Does he have a right to be Nicaragua's president for life, like Fidel Castro?"

Azcona said that his country is not going to separate itself from the Contadora Group, "or to seek bilateral solutions, as there are none." He added: The Contadora Group's role is "very important, because it helps to maintain hopes, and because it is making great efforts to prevent war and confrontation."

The Honduran president feels that the USSR would not intervene in the event of a U.S. invasion in Nicaragua, "just as they did not move in the Gulf of Sidra." "The USSR is not going to fight for Nicaragua," Azcona predicted.

Azcona said that he does not believe that the United States will invade Nicaragua, "nor do I believe that the Managua government will be consolidated in the end, and, to be frank, I am glad this has not occurred. However, I would not be glad to see them ousted by force."

GOVERNMENT REITERATES OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM

PA230449 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 22 Apr 86 p 2

[Statement issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Foreign Secretariat in Tegucigalpa on 21 April]

[Text] In the wake of recent international developments, the Honduran Government has deemed it timely to reiterate its permanent rejection of acts of terrorism as these constitute the cruelest expression of violence.

Terrorist acts not only indiscriminately spread death and destruction but also, by provoking a justified reaction against its authors, imperil world peace and security. The government of the Republic expresses its trust that the heads of international terrorism will regain their prudence and understand that with their merciless actions to achieve their goals, far from intimidating other nations, the only thing they will achieve is to unleash greater violence with unpredictable results.

Information and Press Directorate, Foreign Relations Secretariat

NICARAGUA

PROTEST TO SHULTZ OVER REAGAN REMARKS ON TERRORISM

PA240359 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Protest note to George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, signed by Victor Hugo Tinoco, acting foreign minister, dated 23 April]

[Text] Dear Mr Secretary of State: This refers to statements by President Ronald Reagan during his speech before the organization known as the Heritage Foundation on 22 April. The Nicaraguan Government hereby voices its strongest protest for the threats that the President of your country expressed in this speech. In this speech, he makes use of state terrorism and tries to create conditions for wider and more serious actions against Nicaragua.

Dear Mr Secretary: The intentions expressed by President Reagan reflect his willingness to obsessively persist in his policy of training, supporting, and leading terrorist and mercenary forces in Central America to attack Nicaragua. Such statements belie entirely your alleged interest to promote and support the great peace efforts of the Contadora and the Support Groups. Because of this, the visits of your personal envoys to the region constitute a smokescreen to continue your policy of aggression. Through me, the Nicaraguan Government urges the U.S. Government to act with common sense and abide by the principles and norms of international law that must govern our relations. Simultaneously, this government reiterates its willingness for a dialogue as the best way to settle our disagreements, and this government's support for the peace process sponsored by the Contadora and Support Groups.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] Victor Hugo Tinoco, acting foreign minister.

FSLN SPOKESMAN ON REAGAN'S 'MACHIAVELLIAN' CAMPAIGN

PA231616 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1352 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Managua, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Reagan administration is trying to "associate" the "terrorist attack" on Libya in order to launch similar actions against Nicaragua, the top spokesman for the FSLN, Carlos Fernando Chamorro, has charged. The designer of the Sandinists' "Agitation and Propaganda" Department policy, Carlos Fernando Chamorro said that in order to do this, the United States "has set up a Machiavellian propaganda campaign that depicts Libya as a terrorist state."

Chamorro emphasized: "When (Reagan) says that Nicaragua is a new Libya, he is trying to communicate with the members of U.S. public who are fanatics against that country (Libya)."

Fernando Chamorro, who is also the editor of the government newspaper BARRICADA, said that United States plans to carry out actions similar to the ones carried out against Libya.

COSEP PRESIDENT JUSTIFIES CONTRAS IN HONDURAS

PA230430 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Enrique Bolanos, the pro-U.S. opposition leader and Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, president, with absolute disregard for the country where he was born, has said in Costa Rica that the presence of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras is fully justified. Bolanos agrees with Carlos Orbin Montoya, Honduran National Congress president, who said that the Honduran Government will never take action to oust the former Somozist guardsmen from Honduran territory, because that would be criminal. With this, Bolanos confirms COSEP collaboration with the Somozist mercenaries, who have caused so much pain and death among the defenseless peasant population of Nicaragua.

DEPUTY MINISTER PRAISES NONALIGNED DOCUMENT

PA240053 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Javier Chamorro Mora has described the nonaligned countries document condemning U.S. military intervention in Central America as clear and conclusive. In an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA in Cologne, Germany, Chamorro Mora said that the nonaligned conference gave special priority to the Central American problem. The nonaligned ministers strongly repudiated the request to and debates in the U.S. Congress for war funds for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

PRC CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DELIVERS GOODS DONATION

PA191526 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 10

[Text] The CPC and PRC Government have donated $1 million in goods to the revolutionary government. This donation, one of the most important to arrive in the country from remote China, includes clothes, canned goods, powdered milk, chocolate, and so forth, totaling up to 680 tons.

Xu Yicong [spelling as published], charge d'affaires of the PRC Embassy, delivered this significant donation to Jose Angel Buitrago, deputy minister of foreign cooperation. Buitrago expressed the appreciation felt by the Nicaraguan people and government when he received this valuable donation which is proof of the solidarity of the PRC.

For his part, Xu Yicong said that he was very pleased to attend the ceremony, which must mark a new step in the friendship of the Chinese and Nicaraguan peoples. This is being done, he said, a few weeks before the establishment of the PRC Embassy in Nicaragua. He noted that the recent establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and Nicaragua is a very important event in the political lives of the two nations and has a very special meaning. For this reason, he said, we take this first official ceremony after our arrival in Managua to congratulate the Nicaraguan people and to extend the warmest greetings of the Chinese people to them through the friends who are present here. Asked about the $100 million that the Reagan administration wants to give to the contras, Xu Yicong said that it is a demonstration of intervention in Central American internal affairs, especially in those of Nicaragua. He said that the PRC people condemn any interference in the domestic affairs of Nicaraguans. The United States must allow the people to resolve their own development problems. He noted that one one occasion in the sixties, Carlos Fonseca Amador, commander in chief of the Sandinist people's revolution, visited the PRC and that his intention on that occasion was clearly to establish relations with CPC members.

BORGE COMMENTS ON AUTONOMY, POLITICAL RIGHTS

PA230350 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Commander Tomas Borge Martinez, interior minister and president of the National Commission on Autonomy, said during a recent interview that if there is one law that will truly reflect revolutionary democracy it will be the law on autonomy.

After acknowledging that the revolution made mistakes because it did not understand the situation on the Atlantic Coast, Commander Borge aid that today autonomy represents a natural response to the major demands of the coastal people. At the same time, he praised the high degree of communication that has been established between the FSLN leadership, the Interior Ministry, and the EPS with many of the rebel leaders, which has resulted in a cease-fire in most of the region, with the exception of a few jungle areas. He noted, however, that during his recent visit to Puerto Cabezas he issued instructions to begin implementing pilot plans which will be representative of the autonomy plan, particularly in places which are better organized and are most likely to be attacked by the mercenary bands.

Commander Borge confirmed that as a result of the negotiations with the top leaders of the rebel Miskito Indians, materials and supplies are currently being delivered not only to them but to the communities in which they live, which has led to an easing of tension and an intensification of the pacification process of the Atlantic Coast. Commenting on the negotiations with the organization KISAN [Unity of Atlantic Coast Peoples] For Peace [para la paz], Commander Borge said that the talks are based on the principle that the law on autonomy entails a broad recognition of the rights of the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast, which fundamentally means respect for their traditions, language, religion, and culture as well as the recognition that the wealth of the Atlantic Coast can and must be distributed among its inhabitants, that is, the area must stop being a colony of the Pacific region and become a region integrated into the nation.

On other subjects raised by Commander Borge during the interview were principles of the revolution, such as mixed economy, nonalignment, and political pluralism amid indications that the parties which are on the National Assembly and those of the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board are forming a single opposition group against the FSLN.

We will now listen to some personal views expressed during the interview by the president of the National Commission on Autonomy regarding the significance of the return of Miskitos to the Coco River area and their probable use by the counterrevolutionaries.

[Begin recording] [Borge] The Miskitos who lived in the Coco River area began to be used and attacked by the counterrevolutionaries and we found ourselves forced to relocate them in a place that is very well known -- Tasba Pri. However -- and this forms part of the what we did not know -- the Miskitos in Tasba Pri missed the Coco River [1-second break in transmission] and their desire to go back to the area was so extraordinary that one day I went to Puerto Cabezas and told them that there was a possibility they could return but that the return had to be very orderly, and so forth. A sort of reverse exodus [antiexodo] to the Coco River began. Those who headed the march returned to the main population centers and resettled there by the Coco River, drinking its waters -- which were probably polluted -- and bathing in them. It was as if they had taken mirrors out of the river to look at themselves, as if they had torn the roots of the trees by the river to take them as symbols.

Because of this extraordinary attachment to the river -- which (?I doubt) if we will ever fully understand -- they returned to the river. Of course, this was a response to an aspiration which ran much deeper than we thought, because they had better living conditions in Tasba Pri. There they had health programs, greater access to education, agricultural development programs, and so forth. However, it was not enough, and they went back to the river, abandoning the programs we had already developed at a very high cost. They were much happier on the banks of the (Wanki), as they call it.

Consequently, we knew that the counterrevolutionaries, imperialism, and the CIA would try to take advantage of the return of the Miskitos to the Coco River. And indeed, by force, fundamentally through violence, or through fear they took away 9,000 of the 16,000 Miskitos who, if I am not mistaken, had returned to the river, telling them that invasion was imminent and that all of them would die if they were at the river's banks. Despite this, some -- or many -- refused to leave and then they were taken away by force.

The Indians have begun returning to the Coco River, and many of them are living in subhuman conditions on the other bank, in Honduran territory. In fact, I have learned that (?many) children have died of malnutrition. They lack medical assistance and food at the sort of concentration camps that have been set up on the other bank of the river to keep the Miskito population there and, of course, to cause political problems for the revolution and besmirch its image internationally, sacrificing these brothers of ours with the infamous maneuvers devised by the CIA together with KISAN organizations for war. There are KISAN organizations for peace but there are also KISAN organizations for war.

This is being done with the participation of former Somozist guardsmen; the complicity -- which still exists -- of Honduran military men; and, in this case, with more direct involvement of U.S. Green Berets, who have provided means of transportation and advice to carry out these actions against the revolution.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander Borge, during the last few days there has been talk about the formation of an internal front with the participation of some of the political parties that are represented at the National Assembly and the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board. What will the Interior Ministry do if this plan is indeed carried out?

[Borge] To begin with, I wish to point out that the revolution's fundamental principles are sovereignty of the fatherland and democracy as well as the defense of that sovereignty and democracy. The revolutionary state guarantees the mixed economy and political pluralism, which form part of the context of this revolutionary project.

However, mixed economy is not the same in Nicaragua as in Costa Rica. Political pluralism in Nicaragua is not the same as in Venezuela, because political pluarlism and a mixed economy exist in Nicaragua within the context of the revolution. And just as a rifle may fire the same way in the hands of revolutionary as in the hands of a counterrevolutionary, the mixed economy or political pluralism have different objectives, or pursue objectives in a revolutionary country which are different from those pursued in a country that is not revolutionary.

This is a class problem. In the capitalist countries, the mixed economy and political pluralism are at the service of the bourgeoisie. In Nicaragua they are at the service of the workers. And if in Nicaragua, or better put, if in other countries the bourgeoisie grants concessions to the workers, in Nicaragua the workers grant concessions to the bourgeoisie.

Therefore, we will defend the mixed economy and political pluralism within this context because Nicaragua does not have a socialist system. However, it cannot be said, either, that it has a capitalist system.

This revolution has peculiar characteristics that are a consequence of the geopolitical reality in this country. Some do not like the mixed economy. They cannot understand the situation, or do not like political pluralism. I tell them that Norwegians do not like the cold weather in which they are forced to live. Well, Norwegians have to enjoy their dreadful winters and we have to enjoy -- to put it in some way -- our mixed economy and political pluralism.

Actually, several political parties exist here and I hope they will continue existing. If they form a single front to oppose the revolution they have every right to do so, always provided they are within the law. If they form a front to join the counterrevolutionaries then they would then step outside Nicaragua's laws. They can unite to confront the revolution politically. In fact, I think they made the mistake of not doing so for the last elections.

To detract from the legitimacy of the elections, the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board made the very serious mistake of not participating in the elections. They would not have won anyway, but this would have allowed them to have more political space internally. However, on a recommendation from our main enemies -- the North Americans -- the Sacasa Coordinating Board decided not to participate in the election, which was obviously clean and (?free).

Therefore, if they become organized I, as interior minister, will guarantee their freedom to form a political organization. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT SEEKS REPATRIATION OF MISKITOS

PA230423 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Alejandro Bendana, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, has held a press conference regarding the Miskito Indians. He said that Nicaragua had asked the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, to petition the Honduran Government to repatriate the Miskitos whom the counterrevolutionary forces have recently kidnapped. There are [word indistinct] more Miskitos kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary forces of KISAN [Unity of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast Indigenous People] who are (?siding) with the FDN. This happened in March. According to Alejandro Bendana, the Miskitos want to return to Nicaragua as soon as possible. Also, the UNHCR approved a Nicaraguan request for $.5 million in financial aid to strengthen the Miskito economy. (?The aid) will be used for production programs and the development of agricultural cooperatives.

According to Bendana's report to newsmen, KISAN's contra forces kidnapped 12,000 [word indistinct] and 15,000 Miskitos who usually live along the banks of the Coco River. The objective is to denounce their mistreatment by Nicaragua and say that they want to leave because they cannot withstand pressure by the Sandinist government. The Reagan administration [words indistinct] this in order to press for approval for the $100 million. Bendana said that a show was staged to demonstrate that the Nicaraguan Miskitos could not bear the government pressure and fled the country. However, there was a lack of coordination. The newsmen who went to the place where the U.S. Vice President George Bush was to welcome the Miskitos saw that no one had come. This show failed. Alejandro Bendana said that it showed that this was just one more trick by the Reagan administration to obtain the $100 million in aid that is still under debate.

SANDINIST 'ABUSES' IN DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION CLAIMED

PA181757 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] The revolutionary Social Christian Youth has reported on repression and abuses committed by the Sandinists in the implementation of the military draft. Nicaraguan youths are again giving their quota of sacrifice. They are forced to brandish weapons, but they kill in combat to survive, not to defend the current regime, the opposition group noted. Fanor Avendano, secretary general of the Revolutionary Social Christian Youth, explained that some of its members have been recruited despite the fact they were ill. According to Avendano, on 12 April 12 students of Managua's Baptist School were taken out of their classrooms and sent to comply with the military service. He said that recently the Sandinists are forcing children younger than 12 years old to stage demonstrations in favor of the government and against the United States.

BRIEFS

ASSISTANCE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- According to Gustav Stopka, Czechoslovak ambassador to Nicaragua, his country has granted $250 million in assistance through credits and donations to Nicaragua. He added that his government is currently trying to grant $25 million in aid to Nicaragua as a gesture of goodwill and support for the Nicaraguan people. He noted that the credit lines granted to our country are not expected to be repaid in the immediate future but after 1990. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 16 Apr PA]

TALKS BEGIN WITH PARIS CLUB ON REFINANCING DEBT

PA232001 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1937 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Havana, 23 Apr (REUTER) -- Cuba today began a new round of talks with Western creditors on refinancing its foreign debt of $3.5 billion at a time when Cuba's exports are dropping.

Diplomatic sources reported that a Paris Club mission began talks today with Cuban officials in Havana on refinancing this year's past due payments on the government-to-government loans.

Cuba last year rescheduled $156 million in debt with the Paris Club after refinancing $256 million in 1984, but the Cuban Government has not given any indications of the amount it wishes to refinance in 1986.

The sources added that this year's talks will be especially complicated, as it is believed that Cuba's hard currency revenue will drop by several million dollars in 1986 as a result of low oil prices throughout the world and the poor 1985-86 sugar harvest.

In addition to voicing concern over the expected drop in foreign currency in Cuba, it is believed that the Paris Club mission will focus its discussions on the sharp increase in the Cuban short-term commercial debt, diplomatic sources added.

The Paris Club mission is led by a French treasury official, Jean De Rozene, and includes representatives from France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Canada, and Japan.

The team will stay in Havana until Saturday, and the formal negotiations on refinancing the debt will be held later this year in Paris, the sources added.

RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL TO RESUME BEFORE NOVEMBER

FL231832 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 86

[By correspondent (Marta Valverde) from Rio de Janeiro]

[Excerpt] The resumption of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Cuba has again been commented on by President Jose Sarney's government. This time it was Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre who announced that diplomatic relations with Cuba will be restored before the 15 November National Assembly elections. He added that talks to define concrete agreements will begin next month.

CEMA TO COOPERATE IN OIL, GAS EXPLORATION

FL232048 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1816 GMT 23 Apr 86

[By Carmen Camillas]

[Text] CEMA member countries will cooperate with Cuba in the extraction and exportation of oil and gas as well as the introduction of advanced technology for exploitation of oil fields.

During the CEMA permanent commission meeting, GDR advances were presented in the application of biotechnology for extraction of oil and gas. That advanced method is based on the use of bacteria which, during its reproduction process, generates sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide which is a substance capable of reducing the viscosity of liquids, especially petroleum.

During the meeting, CEMA members have been very aware of the importance of oil exploration in Cuba.

'OCEAN VENTURE' EXERCISES DAMAGE ENVIRONMENT

PA231324 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Report by correspondent Maria del Carmen in Puerto Rico -- live or recorded]

[Text] As part of the increase in the U.S. military actions in recent days, the United States will carry out the maneuvers known as "Ocean '86" in the Caribbean Sea from 28 April to 11 May. These maneuvers are used to test the troops and equipment which are then used to carry out aggressions against other peoples.

The U.S. Defense Department announced this week that the exercise is designed to show the U.S. capability to use military power when it is necessary. This exercise, which is described as the biggest naval maneuvers in the Western Hemisphere, will include the participation of approximately 20,000 soldiers from six Caribbean nations.

The United States has carried out close to 20 large-scale military maneuvers in the last 5 years. In the past, up to 50 warships, submarines, bombers, and aircraft carriers such as the USS America, which attacked Libya this week, have been mobilized for this type of exercise. Military equipment of advanced technology is also tested in such exercises.

Another important aspect is the damage that such exercises cause to the environment. Residents of Vieques and Puerto Rico's eastern coast complain about the 24-hour long noise that these exercises cause. The residents of that coast say that they live in a permanent hell during the maneuvers. For years, it has been affirmed that the damage caused to the ecology is irreparable. Since 1983, bombs up to 500 pounds in weight have been dropped on Vieques. This not only destroys the environment but also causes heavy damage to homes and buildings on the small island. Residents of the area also point out that to the physical damage one must add the great social havoc that these maneuvers cause: drunk sailors, humiliations, prostitution, and street brawls. They are also part of "Ocean Venture."

BRIEFS

MATERIAL, SUPPLY COMMITTEE HEAD -- Deputy Sonia Rodriguez Cardona has been appointed Minister President of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply. Sonia Rodriguez Cordona, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has worked for several years in the coordination and support team of President Fidel Castro. The former minister president of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, Irma Sanchez, will now carry out other tasks, it was reported here in Havana. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 86 FL]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA ANNOUNCED

FL211621 Bridgetown CANA in English 2130 GMT 20 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 20, CANA -- Guyana and Venezuela today announced a new counter-trade agreement involving bauxite and oil. A statement issued simultaneously in Georgetown and Caracas said increased exports from Guyana, mainly bauxite, were to be matched by higher imports from Venezuela, primarily petroleum products. Government officials said the deal was not surprising and that Guyana had for some time been seeking petroleum supplies from Caracas to ease problems with Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has been insisting Guyana pay for its oil up front and in U.S. dollars, but Georgetown says it has a foreign exchange shortage... Against this background, the Georgetown government has been rationing patrol.

Following is the text of the statement: The Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela, convinced of the large potential opportunities for exchange and co-operation between both countries, have resolved to strengthen their economic and commercial relations. In this respect, both governments have agreed to undertake an economic co-operation programme, which includes trade in petroleum products and bauxite and a financing scheme for facilitating the exchange of goods and services between the two countries. The petroleum arrangements provide for the supply of petroleum products from Venezuela to help in satisfying Guyana's consumption needs. To this end the Venezuelan oil company Maraven S.A. has agreed to supply such products to the Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA).

In relation to the arrangements in the area of bauxite, the Bauxite Industry Development Company Limited (BIDCO) of Guyana has also reached an agreement with Interalumina of Venezuela under which Guyana will supply directly to Venezuela, substantial quantities of metallurgical grade bauxite during 1986 and 1987. With respect to the financial aspects, the Venezuelan Investment Fund (VIF) and the Bank of Guayana also negotiated a deposit agreement designed to facilitate these transactions.

The general principle [of] this agreement is one of matching increased exports from Guyana to Venezuela, primarily bauxite, with increased imports from Venezuela into Guyana, primarily petroleum products while simutaneously giving consideration to the financial implications. The terms of the agreement provide for the deposits on maturity to form part of a roll over credit type facility. The maturing amounts are intended to be used again for the acquisition from Venezuela of goods and services of interest to Guyana in accordance with the financial conditions laid down by Finexpo for financing Venezuelan exports.

This programme has been conceived and concluded in the context of deepening economic co-operation between the two countries, in accord with the several meetings held recently between representatives of the two governments. In particular, it reflects agreements reached during the February 1985 visit to Guyana of the foreign minister of Venezuela and attests to the determination of the Governments of Guyana and Venezuela to attain higher levels of co-operation and understanding. The Governments of Guyana and Venezuela have expressed their full satisfaction with the atmosphere of understanding, cordiality and mutual respect in which these discussions were conducted. (end of statement)

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DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ENDS

PA250215 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The meeting of Central American deputy foreign ministers at the Hotel Presidente in this capital ended at noon today. Participating were Francisco Villagran of Guatemala, Jose Leon Talavera of Nicaragua, Ricardo Acevedo Peralta of El Salvador, Gerardo Trejos of Costa Rica, and Roberto Suazo Tome of Honduras. After preparing what will be the initial document of the Central American parliament [as heard], which will be held on 2 and 3 May in Guatemala, Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta, upon reading the agreements reached for the creation of the parliament, said:

[Begin recording] My Central American colleagues have designated me to thank you [not further identified] on behalf of the Salvadoran people and Government for your collaboration and expressions of solidarity with our presidents' historical commitment. In their name and my own, I want to say the following:

First, this meeting is an important step toward achieving a summit meeting of Central American presidents, a meeting that must contain all of the elements, mechanisms, and solutions that will truly lead to the achievement of peace, democracy, and social justice. This effort results from the conviction that Central Americans must, at this historic time, take the initiative in the search for solutions to their own problems by creating the appropriate regional bodies and the suitable juridical and political instruments that will allow the safeguarding of Central America's historical and cultural unity. We believe it is opportune to reiterate at this important meeting our full support for the summit of Central American presidents, which will be held on 24 and 25 May. At this meeting the presidents will analyze very important issues for the creation of the Central American parliament and the importance of concluding the negotiations for the signing of the Contadora Document for Peace and Cooperation in Central America in order to achieve regional peace. Finally, we expressed our desire to meet again soon in order to refine as much as possible this very important communique, as it should be a historic milestone in the achievement of an authentically Central American, regional, and democratic peace. [end recording]

V. Presidents' Meeting Postponed

PA241922 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1821 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Apr (DPA) -- In a last-minute decision adopted by the five Central American countries, the meeting of vice presidents to have been held today and tomorrow in the Guatemalan capital has been postponed until 2 and 3 May. The 2-3 May meeting will be held in Guatemala City. The office of Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle, who is coordinator of the summit of Central American presidents that will be held in Esquipulas, Guatemala, on 24 and 25 May, said that the decision to postpone the vice presidential meeting was made in order to learn and analyze aspects of the meeting being held by the group of deputy foreign ministers. These aspects must be analyzed and approved by the vice presidents.

The Esquipulas summit is considered a most important meeting for Central America's political and economic future. Its main topic will be the creation of the Central American parliament which has been proposed by Guatemala. Presidents Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, Jose Azcona of Honduras, Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, and Oscar Arias, who will by then have taken office in Costa Rica, have confirmed their attendance. The host will be Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

OFFICIALS CITED ON HABIB'S 'OPEN-MINDED APPROACH'

PY241751 Buenos Aires TIEMPO ARGENTINO in Spanish 23 Apr 86 p 3

[Excerpt] According to official sources approached by this newspaper last night, the immediate results of the talks between President Raul Alfonsin, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and U.S. special envoy for Central America Philip Habib is the discovery that there is the potential for a quest for a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis. According to these sources, the change in attitude becomes more obvious if Habib's mission is compared to the one that his predecessor, Harry Shlaudeman, carried out 2 months ago in the countries of the Contadora Group. One of the sources said that "Shlaudeman's approach was inflexible, while Habib seems to be willing to be flexible in order to further rapprochement. After all, he is very experienced in handling difficult situations." The source added that "the Reagan administration has obviously issued a new directive, following a review of the Central American crisis in light of the U.S. domestic situation."

According to reports, one of the main differences between the missions of Habib and Shlaudeman is the former's clearly-shown willingness to discuss each and every one of the aspects of the conflict and, basically, his "open-minded approach to new proposals." The sources reported that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo played a key role in conveying Argentina's pro-dialogue position toward the conflict. One of the main characteristics of the minister's role was his insistence that the Central American crisis is a continental affair, which means that everyone must participate in the quest for its peaceful solution. Furthermore, Caputo was constantly supported by President Alfonsin, who frequently asked him to give his opinion.

During the meeting the president and the foreign minister tried to sound out Habib and his aides about Washington's position toward suspending its aid to the irregular groups that are harassing the Nicaraguan regime. However, although the U.S. officials did not sidestep the issue, no categoric explanation on the subject was obtained. In any case, the official sources that yesterday commented to TIEMPO ARGENTINO on the results of the meeting emphasized the significance of this new effort by the U.S. Administration to exchange opinions with Latin American governments. These sources pointed out that "this attitude does not seem to foreshadow drastic decisions regarding the crisis, but rather the possibility of a search for political solutions to this situation that affects the entire continent."

The sources also said that during the meeting with Habib Argentina ratified its points of view, similar to those of the Contadora Group, that the first step toward the pacification of the area must be the termination of all operations of and interference from irregular groups. The first impression that the meeting seems to have left among diplomatic observers is that there is a possibility that new political proposals could give rise to a review of yet insufficiently explored rapprochement formulas, for which there appears to be a new willingness.

CAPUTO CITED ON OBJECTIVES OF PEACE COMMISSION

PY232134 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (NA) -- Miguel Ponce, the president of the Pro-United Nations Argentine Association, has reported that Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today condemned "the tense situation that the U.S. attack against Libya has generated, the methodology used to combat terrorism and the use of terror to fight terror."

Ponce made this statement at the end of the first session of the National Commission for the International Year of Peace which was held this morning behind closed doors in the White Room of Government House. The meeting was chaired by Aldo Tesio, foreign minister and presidential adviser.

Ponce noted that "the foreign minister began the meeting by making an extensive analysis of the paradoxical situations that we are confronting in 1986" saying that "on one hand there is an increased tension while on the other, this year has been declared the International Year of Peace." According to Ponce, Caputo continued by saying that "this in itself shows the weakness of some multilateral organizations, like the United Nations, which in its capacity as an international forum should have had a more direct involvement in terms of exerting power and being the forum in which conflicts can be resolved within the framework of international rights." He added that "by ignoring the existence of these organizations of power, the powerful and the politics of power are undoubtedly generating a dangerous situation that may lead to war and are causing tensions which we hope may dissipate in 1986."

Today, Caputo opened the National Commission for the Celebration of the International Year of Peace which is being held in keeping with a mandate of the last UN General Assembly. Before the meeting, the Argentine foreign minister said that "our basic function is to promote this initiative, promote the importance of peace, and the achievement of peace for everyone." Therefore, he added that "it is imperative to safeguard the adherence to legal order so as to guarantee the independence of countries." He explained that this commission "will be entrusted with propagating the objectives of the United Nations at the national level and with drafting projects in keeping with the UN program that seeks to achieve peace.

In January, the executive branch decided to establish this commission which is made up of legislators, ministers and members of the justice branch at the government and provincial level, and representatives from the eight national ministries and delegates from city councils. The commission, which is honorary in nature, today established the working committee and the liaison committee that will be in charged with carrying out consultations with non-governmental public institutions that are well-known for their dedication for peace.

Ponce Refuted

PY250143 Paris AFP in Spanish 2011 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The Foreign Ministry today denied that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has condemned the U.S. raid on Libya. The president of the Argentine Pro-UN Association, Miguel Ponce, had said that Caputo condemned the raid on Wednesday in Buenos Aires. Ponce said that the foreign minister made this statement in a closed-door meeting of the Pro-UN Association, which was created to celebrate the International Year of Peace in Argentina. Ponce told the press that he contended, among other things, that the idea of fighting terrorism with terrorism stands as a paradox, particularly when this has been declared the International Year of Peace. Today, a communique from the Foreign Ministry categorically denied the statements made by third parties, which were attributed to the minister, and pointed out that only the foreign minister or his spokesman are authorized to make statements.

ALFONSIN TO ATTEND ARIAS' INAUGURATION 8 MAY

PY231332 Paris AFP in Spanish 2154 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (AFP) -- It was officially announced this afternoon in Buenos Aires that President Raul Alfonsin will attend the inauguration of Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez on 8 May. The communique issued by Government House states that Alfonsin's visit will be from 7 to 9 May.

Arias Sanchez made a private visit to Buenos Aires last week. He also visited Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay -- the three other member countries of the Contadora Support Group. The Costa Rican president-elect expressed his hope of gathering in San Jose the presidents of the Contadora and Support Group countries in an effort to get the Central American peace treaty signed in June. This will be Alfonsin's first trip abroad since September 1985, when he visited Yugoslavia, the FRG, and France.

ALFONSIN ORDERS 'DIRTY WAR' TRIALS EXPEDITED

PY250220 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Defense Minister German Lopez this afternoon released the instructions that were given to Brigadier Hector Canale, the Armed Forces general prosecutor, to expedite the cases of military personnel involved in human rights violations. The instructions to the prosecutor state that the growing number of trials and indictments has promoted disorder, has hindered the expediency of the legal procedures, and has impaired the Armed Forces' morale, because it has given grounds to the idea of a collective trial of the members of the Armed Forces. This idea is against the objectives of the ongoing investigation. The instructions stress that the criteria to be adopted will be that of the Buenos Aires Federal Appellate Court. The instructions were issued on orders from President Raul Alfonsin, in an effort to expedite the court procedure without hindering the administration of justice.

CENTRAL BANK DEVALUES AUSTRAL BY 1.2 PERCENT

PY242050 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] The Argentine Central Bank today devalued the austral by 1.2 percent against the U.S. dollar. Money exchange houses today are buying dollars at the rate of 0.84 australes per dollar and selling at 0.8410. The measures was adopted by the Central Bank officials, who informed the currency exchangers of the news by telephone.

PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR 'UNITED FORCES-86'

Protests in Cochabamba

PY221817 Paris AFP in Spanish 1320 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 22 Apr (AFP) --Cochabamba Prefect German Lema has reported that a terrorist attack took place early this morning at the Institute for Development of the Tropical Region [Instituto de Desarrollo del Tropico] of Cochabamba in the central part of the country. Lema stated that the office in charge of the planning of agricultural projects suffered some damage but there were no casualties. The police have begun an investigation to identify the attackers.

A few hours earlier, Interior Ministry Under Secretary Guido Meruvia stated that the city of Cochamba has become a center of convulsion and added that several sectors have prepared demonstrations against the government, especially to protest against the Bolivian-U.S. military maneuvers. He denied that military forces are prepared a campaign to spray herbicides in the Chapare coca producing zone, where the maneuvers will take place. The 7th Army Division, headquartered in Cochabamba, has reported that the first group of U.S. advisers, of the total of 270, will arrive today to plan the Bolivian-U.S. maneuvers. The same Army division also reported that the maneuvers will begin with night parachutings in the high plateau, and that the operations will begin later in Puerto Villarroel and Chapare, a region with many rivers and dense woodland.

U.S. Marines Arrive

PY250132 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] A U.S. Galaxy airplane carrying 400 U.S. Marines and military equipment arrived this afternoon at the Viru Viru International Airport under strict security measures.

The U.S. Marines are going to Cochabamba Department to carry ut joint Bolivian-U.S. military exercises. Many Santa Cruz citizens went to the Viru Viru airport to see the large U.S. airplane land. According to reports, the security measures were exaggerated, causing problems to the people who went to the airport.

Air Force Chief on Maneuvers

PY241926 La Paz Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Air Force [FAB] will probably participate in only a limited way in the joint Bolivian-U.S. military maneuvers next week, unless the problem of the insurance against accidents during military air operations is resolved by that time. FAB Commander General Jorge Rodriguez this morning told Radio Illimani that an interorganizational commission appointed by the government is drafting an agreement that might solve the problem. Gen Rodriguez emphasized that the lack of an agreement on this issue could cause the FAB to participate only in a limited way in the "United Forces-86" military maneuvers, which will be held in Cochabamba beginning next Monday with the participation of 270 U.S. advisers and 2,000 Bolivian soldiers. Gen Rodriguez was questioned on this issue and said:

[Begin recording] Yes, we are trying to overcome this problem. At any rate, if we do not have a timely solution we will participate in only a limited way. At any rate, we will participate. [end recording]

SODRE ON SCHEDULE FOR RENEWING

PY232211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1521 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Vitoria, 23 Apr (EFE) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre today stated that Brazil will resume ties with Cuba before congressional elections take place and by the time the constituent assembly elections are held on 15 November 1986. The foreign minister added that talks between the two countries will begin within a month to define "the level of relationship to be established."

Abreu Sodre said that the talks were postponed because of a bill U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent to the U.S. House of Representatives, requesting aid to finance the struggle of the armed Nicaraguan opposition. "It was difficult for Brazil to adopt a stand concerning Cuba while that state of affairs continued in Central America," Sodre said. Sources close to President Sarney have confirmed Abreu Sodre's statements. The secret talks will include the number of diplomats to be accredited, the number of consulates, and whether military attaches will be necessary.

SENATE LEADER DEFENDS INFORMATICS LAW

PY242344 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Senate First Secretary Eneas Farias has defended the Brazilian Informatics Law and condemned continuous U.S. pressure against it. Senator Eneas Farias was referring to a letter sent to Itamaraty by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which the U.S. Government asked Brazil to adopt a more flexible policy in the computer sector. In the opinion of Eneas Farias, it is useless to try to pressure Brazil on that subject, because both the government and the individual politicians are determined to defend the country's sovereignty.

The senator from Parana State recalled that President Jose Sarney has already stated that the informatics Law will not be changed. After congratulating the president for taking that position, Eneas Farias said that technology is the only means for Brazil to attain international competitiveness without enslaving its people and without alienating its resources. He added that in defending the Informatics Law, the objective is to protect Brazilian industry against U.S. attacks, and expressed his fear that the pressure now exerted against the computer sector might later be exerted against other sectors of the economy.

BRITISH DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY ARRIVES

PY230052 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Apr 86 p 8

[Text] Invited by the Armed Forces Joint Staff (EMFA), British Deputy Defense Secretary John Lee arrived in Rio de Janeiro at 0525 on 21 April. His official agenda includes a visit to Sao Jose dos Campos (97 km northeast of Sao Paulo), where he will tour the Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise] and the Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] factories.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CONCERNED OVER ATTACKS

PY130122 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Foreign press correspondents accredited to Chile today expressed their concern over recent attacks launched against them by some high-ranking officials of the government of General Augusto Pinochet. A communique issued by the Association of Foreign Press Correspondents states that we have been unfairly and publicly attacked by more than one government official. Besides regretting it, we fear that this means that we are witnessing a campaign against the work performed by the foreign press in Chile.

The situation appeared to become more acute on 11 April when Investigative Police Director General Fernando Paredes criticized the participation of some correspondents in a clandestine press conference held by the left-wing Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), which advocates armed struggle against the military government. During that press conference, the FPMR claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of policeman German Obando, who was freed unharmed shortly after midnight.

In addition to the statements made by Gen Paredes, the Interior Ministry has asked a military court to interrogate the correspondents as part of the proceedings for the agent's kidnapping. Nevertheless, the correspondents association has stated that terrorism, violence, torture, and kidnappings are not the responsibility of the journalists, recalling that several members of their association were attacked during the past disturbances in Santiago and that the authorities have not solved these crimes.

FORMER MINISTER JARPA NOT TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

PY111630 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1537 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Santiago, 10 Apr (EFE) -- Sergio Jarpa, formerly interior minister of the Chilean military regime, today said that he will not run for president of the nation. Speaking to fellow party members of the National Labor Front in Concepcion, 500 km south of Santiago, Jarpa flatly denied that he was interested in this candidacy. Jarpa said: "One needs much patience to be a president, and I have very little. I get upset when things do not get done, and I do not want to run around the country asking for votes."

According to the former interior minister and president of a right-wing party during Salvador Allende's administration, "he would make an awful candidate and an awful president of the nation because he would be hurrying the country along all the time." In his speech, Jarpa said: "One needs much patience to be a president, and I have very little. I get upset when things do not get done, and I do not want to run around the country asking for votes."

In his speech, Jarpa said that the Armed Forces intelligence services are "the most important means against terrorism." Jarpa also expressed agreement with the Chilean bishops, who have asked that the constitutional provision empowering the Military Junta to appoint the presidential candidate in 1989 be revised, because "it is not up to the Armed Forces to submit candidates." Commenting on Chile's foreign policy, the right-wing politician indicated that "mistakes, such as accepting a UN observer, have been made."

EL TIEMPO EDITORIAL ON U.S. ACTION AGAINST LIBYA

PA231904 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 4 A

[Editorial: "The Law of an Eye for an Eye, a Tooth for a Tooth"]

[Excerpts] Terrorism is not new. What is new are the methods and the intensity this scourge have gained since the 1970s. The PLO was the first terrorist organization to hijack airplanes. The relative success and notoriety it achieved due to the great publicity that the news media gave its bold actions led to the proliferation of other terrorist groups in Europe, Japan, the United States, South America, and some Middle East countries. Bombs that kill men, women, and children, assassinations of important figures, kidnappings, and other terrorist acts have become daily events. Their objective, as their name implies, is to create a regime of terror that can then be used to obtain political goals.

The latest modality of terrorism -- that of sponsorship by some states -- is what Reagan wants to eradicate, because he considers it a war through middlemen in which the enemy regimes are able to carry out their attacks without taking any responsibility for them or exposing themselves to retaliation.

It has been seen that a heavy hand against the terrorists produces results. This is especially so when actions are taken against the sources that train and nourish those movements. If the umbilical cord between the members of the organizations and their support centers are cut, the terrorist will lose his vital strength. The terrorist is afraid of military interventions and these have the same effect on him as the fear that he wants to provoke in his enemies. In this way, ever since Israel began to apply the law of retaliation, through which for every attack on its citizens it would respond with bombings of training camps and of the peoples who welcomed and helped its attackers, the number of kidnappings, assassinations, bombings, and other forms of terrorist attacks against Israel has rapidly dropped.

President Reagan has opted for a heavy hand, and he also wants to apply the principle of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. The Western world accompanies him in his crusade against terrorism. Nevertheless, there are many doubts and risks. Some people think that this policy is counterproductive because it might generate an escalation of terrorist attacks. It can also politically harm the United States because the natural reaction of mankind is to reject the action of the big against the small and this attitude might to a certain extent help Al-Qadhdhafi. There is also concern about the effect that this "punishment" might have on world peace and in particular on the relations with the Soviet Union. The initial reaction of the Soviets was to cancel the meeting of their foreign minister with Secretary of State Shultz. Their reaction was, fortunately, significantly more cautious and moderate than had been expected. But in any case, as Secretary Shultz said: "In this problem there are clearly a number of moral questions; but about which there must be no doubt is the right and the duty that democracies have to defend themselves."

FARC INVITES BETANCUR TO TALK IN CASA VERDE

PA232027 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 3 A

[Text of FARC invitation to President Belisario Betancur, issued on 5 April]

[Text] Mr President: Since January 1983 we have participated with you in a struggle for peace in Colombia.

In this struggle, we have made significant accomplishments. We have made our best patriotic efforts, which no one in Colombia can hide or deny. The peace process is taking root in the minds of the Colombian people.

Therefore, it would not be just if you, Mr President, did not come to Casa Verde to talk with us about the important subject of peace, before you turn over the power. We look forward to your positive answer, as undoubtedly, the Colombian nation is also looking forward.

Yours truly, General Staff of the FARC,

Signed: Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jacobo Arenas, Alfonso Cano, Raul Reyes, Timoleon Jimenez.

Mountains of Colombia, 5 April 1986

GOVERNMENT SETS RESTRICTIONS ON ANDEAN IMPORTS

PA240407 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 3 C

[Excerpt] Yesterday Colombia applied the safeguard clause included in the Cartagena Agreement to restrict the importation of at least 50 products from Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador, because they constitute abnormal competition. The measure was adopted by the Foreign Trade Directorate [Consejo Directivo de Comercio Exterior], and it was adopted while keeping in mind the alterations in exchange rates that took place in those countries and the effect these devaluations have on trade with Colombia. The safeguard clause implies that from now on the products in question will be subject to previous licensing, in other words that to import them, the pertinent authorities will have to grant approval, in this case the Foreign Trade Institute, Incomex.

In all, 33 customs tariffs were affected by this decision, which includes more than 50 products according to reports. Included are sea products such as canned fish or tuna, petroleum, shoe polish and asphalts, resins [resinas alcidicas], pine logs, and chemical petroleum by-products. Incomex did not disclose the names of the products included in each of the custom tariff positions. The government had anticipated the measure several weeks ago, but it aroused negative reactions in the other Andean countries, especially Venezuela. The Colombian Government had earlier consulted with the Cartagena Agreement junta about its application, but, until yesterday, it had not received an answer. The safeguard clause is one of the main points that Colombia is defending in order to reform the Andean Pact. Colombia specifically wants the mechanism to be automatic, reporting to the junta afterward.

Meanwhile, the Development Ministry decreed Resolution 303, dated on 18 April, whereby it released the tariffs currently in use for customs processes, examination, introduction into free zones, and transportation of import and export merchandise by customs agents. The ministry established that this is a highly competitive activity that leaves no room for monopolistic maneuvers, and that the effect of those tariffs is almost insignificant on foreign trade. The Development Ministry also refrained from issuing assembly licenses for the following sectors: telephone, consumer electronics, motorcycles, light airplanes, elevators, professional electronics, stationary motors, electric tools for manual use, and electric office machines.

MEDICAL STUDENTS, HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATE

PY242024 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Apr 86 pp 8, 9

[Text] Hospital de Clinicas workers today held a meeting and decided to go on a general 24-hour strike involving health care and academic activities at this hospital. The strike was held to protest the arrest of five doctors from this hospital. The doctors were arrested yesterday evening in connection with preparations for the demonstration, which Clinics Hospital doctors, nurses, and employees staged today. Shortly after 0900 today, some 1,500 workers from the hospital held a meeting inside the School of Medicine. This meeting was also attended by many students from other schools and representatives of associations that have expressed solidarity with the workers of this hospital in their struggle for better wages. Approximately 5,000 people were gathered on the university campus.

At the meeting it was decided to express solidarity with the doctors arrested yesterday evening, "who are paying the price for the Paraguayan awakening," according to Dr Jose Zarza, vice president of the Association of Clinics Hospital Doctors. Drs Jose Bellasai, president of the association, Ursino Barrios, Anibal Carrillo, Carlos Semidei and Juan Masi were arrested yesterday. According to the public relations department of the Metropolitan Police, the doctors "were detained as a precautionary measure," in light of the demonstration that their association was going to hold. It was indicated that these doctors will be released at noon today.

Since early morning, police personnel and a few special Army brigades were deployed around Clinics Hospital. Unusual movements of police forces were also observed near the Finance Ministry, to which the hospital workers were planning to march, the Catholic University, and several other university schools, such as Law and Engineering. When the rally at the Medical School started several trucks arrived carrying platoons of civilians that had the tough look of the long-defunct "militia" [reference to "popular urban militia" which existed in the early days of the Stroessner regime]. The workers of Clinicas Hospital started their march from the hospital but avoided the police cordon that had been set up around Dr Mazzei and Guillermo Arias Streets [by which the marchers would have passed if they wanted to go downtown]. Singing "Beloved Fatherland" and slogans like "the people together will never be defeated," the approximately 5,000 demonstrators marched along Dr Montero Street in the direction of Dr Paiva Street.

From this corner, they went in the direction of the Justice Palace but a new police cordon, set up on Dr Lopez Street some 7 blocks away, stopped them. They managed to retain control and after singing the national anthem, went back to the hospital. When the students approached the police cordon a few journalists were involved in a brief struggle when the police would not allow them to cross the cordon. An obviously enraged plain clothesman took away the walkie-talkie of a Radio Paraguay reporter.

During the march numerous people standing on the sidewalks or at the windows of their homes displayed sympathy and solidarity with the demonstrators by applauding them and singing with them. The comment of a Clinicas Hospital patient to a nurse before the beginning of the march perhaps best summarizes this sympathy: "Go ahead my child, and may God bless you."

EDITORIAL ON BOMB AT U.S. ENVOY'S RESIDENCE

PY241513 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Apr 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The Terrorist Targets"]

[Text] A diplomatic mission has again been the target of a terrorist attack. This time the target was the U.S. Embassy residence. According to reports, the bomb consisted of a powerful explosive device planted inside a car that hit and destroyed a portion of the wall around the building located between Arequipa and (Perpituar) Avenues in downtown Lima. Fortunately, there were no victims.

Nevertheless, it is important to look at the circumstances in which this despicable action occurred. In the first place, this action coincides with an escalation of international violence, resulting from the U.S.-Libyan confrontation. The subersive Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] has claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was a reprisal for the bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi. Should this be true, the MRTA would show two things; namely that it is linked with the regime of the ineffable Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who is accused of being the promoter of international terrorism, and that the MRTA is involved in things completely foreign to our national situation. In addition, the fact that the attack was carried out a few minutes after the end of curfew, that is, around 0510, is cause for alarm.

Therefore, it is only appropriate to ask oneself how effective is the military presence in the emergency state zones? An aggravating factor is the fact that the diplomatic mission should have been better protected by the police forces, usually assigned there. It is strange that they did not notice the imminent danger and did not even react immediately.

Another factor that must be taken into consideration is that the U.S. residence is located a few meters away from Radio Nacional and from a police station. Furthermore, it is known that this type of action always has great repercussions in the foreign press and deeply harms the image of our country in the eyes of the international community. Therefore, as we have already noted in previous cases involving attacks against other embassies, not only must the security at this type of building be strengthened -- because it has been proven that thus far they are easy targets for the terrorists -- but the intelligence services must also develop an effective way to prevent these attacks.

PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER MEET WITH HABIB

PA221423 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Late this afternoon President Jaime Lusinchi met with Philip Habib, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America. At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said that the United States is apparently making its position on Central America more flexible. Here is a report by Elsie Barrota.

[Begin recording] [Barrota] President Lusinchi, Foreign Minister Consalvi, and the new U.S. ambassador for Central America held a 1-hour meeting to discuss the Central American conflicts, the problems among the countries of the area, and the U.S. intervention in Central America, more specifically in Nicaragua. This is the first time that the new ambassador has visited Venezuela since his appointment. It has been said that he is a very prominent diplomat who is very close to President Reagan. He was President Reagan's personal representative in the Middle East from 1981 to 1983.

At the end of the meeting, we were unable to talk with the ambassador because he left very rapidly and stated that he would not make any comments. This shows the secrecy about the tour that he is currently making of Central America. The journalists were later able to speak with Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi about this meeting between the ambassador and President Lusinchi and its results:

[Consalvi] We have the impression that there is a more flexible position on the part of the United States because it has stated that if Nicaragua signs the Contadora document, it will make some rectifications in its policy. It is not up to me to judge these rectifications, but this unquestionably makes the process more flexible. It gives those of us who have been working so hard in this process some political cards to play and, well, we foreign ministers will meet in Costa Rica and 8 May.

[Barrota] Just as there were no statements by the new U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, there is no further information about the tour that he is making of the countries of the region. We have only learned that he has already visited Honduras and Costa Rica, but it is not known what country will be his next stop. We suppose that he will also visit the other member countries of the Contadora Group, which is carrying out peace efforts for Central America. [end recording]

CONSALVI ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE, ABSTENTION

PA230330 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Venezuela abstained from voting on the UN Security Council resolution on the Libya-United States conflict because the spirit of the resolution did not reflect the necessary balance. Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi stated this today, explaining the government's criteria in regard to the condemnation of the United States for bombing the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

Great Britain, France, and the United States exercised their right to veto when the motion was presented by nine countries representing the Nonaligned Movement. Five countries, including Denmark and Australia, voted against the resolution, and Venezuelan UN Ambassador Andres Aguilar's was the only abstention.

Consalvi today presented a copy of the speech delivered yesterday by Dr Aguilar at the Security Council meeting. The speech stated that Venezuela shares forums such as the OPEC and the Nonaligned Movement with Libya, where they make joint efforts to achieve a new international economic order, and as a Ibero-American country, he said, we share a historical background with the Arab world. Nevertheless, we share an old and good friendship with the United States, which began during the first years of our independence and has been strengthened by the values of pluralistic and representative democracy, and by close commercial and cultural ties.

[Begin recording] We abstained, and three countries vetoed the resolution. This explains why we made this decision, which was the best for Venezuela's interests and for our foreign policy. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Consalvi ruled out for the time being the possibility of our country's becoming an active member of the Nonaligned Movement. Had Venezuela been actively affiliated with that group, it would have been forced to support the resolution condemning the United States, because the nonaligned countries promoted the resolution.

Foreign Minister Consalvi also made another important announcement regarding the signing this week of an agreement with Guyana, whereby Venezuela will sell between 7,000 and 10,000 barrels of oil to that country daily and import 500,000 tons of bauxite.

BRIEFS

1986 OIL PRODUCTION -- The Ministry of Energy and Mines reports that Venezuela's daily oil production for 1986 has been established at 1.555 million barrels of crude oil, 115,000 barrels of gas-condensates, and 107,000 barrels of liquefied petroleum gases, for a total daily production of 1.777 million barrels of hydrocarbons. The report states that these figures are based on the oil industry's 1986 export plan, which establishes a goal of 1.410 million barrels a day. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p 2-10 PA]

NEW MILITARY PLANE -- Maracay, 16 Apr -- Tomorrow the Armed Forces' Technical School will officially present the first airplane built in the country. "The Tacarigua" is the Venezuelan version of the Italian single-engine Harriot HD and its pilot will be General Candido Farias Rodriguez, the Technical School director. [Summary] [Caracas EL NATIONAL in Spanish 17 Apr 86 p A-1 PA]

YOUTHS OCCUPY DANISH, PORTUGUESE EMBASSIES

PA250211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0123 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (EFE) -- Two youth groups peacefully occupied the Danish and Portuguese Embassies in this capital today, spokespersons for those diplomatic missions told EFE.

A source said "the visitors" in the Danish mission, the number of which he refused to specify, "are very friendly and are in the embassy's reception area." He said that the occupants have refused to explain their action and added that the embassy is surrounded by the police, "who have not intervened in order to prevent any problems." The Danish Embassy is located in the "Polanco neighborhood," close to the embassies of Panama, Canada, Bolivia, and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, three men and a woman occupied the Portuguese Embassy, where Ambassador Francisco Knopsli is talking with them. They belong to the "28 February Popular Peasant-Labor Unity" an organization with leftist ties.

A spokesperson for the Greek Embassy categorically denied that the mission was occupied by leftist youths, as reported by a local newspaper.

PSUM CALLS U.S. SUSPENSION OF VISAS 'OFFENSE'

PA231816 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 4

[Text] The decision of the U.S. Embassy to suspend issuing visas to all Mexican citizens who wish to travel to the United States, "as a security measure," is one more offense to Mexico, because it is an implicit accusation that any citizen is a potential terrorist, the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) has said. The PSUM added that this measure violates the right of transit of Mexican citizens. The PSUM reiterated that this determination is one more violation of international law principles.

This measure could also be dangerous, because it is part of U.S. Government tendency to seek terrorists everywhere, "except were they are more abundant: at the White House, the Pentagon, and the CIA." The PSUM said that, in addition, President Reagan seems to be particularly interested in showing the alleged inability of other governments to control or fight what he regards as terrorist actions, and as a consequence to impose his services as the eradicator of the "evil forces" in his role of world gendarme -- a role that no one can grant to him because he lacks all traces of moral authority.

Because of the strong pressure exerted by Reagan and out of respect for the people's sovereignty, the PSUM has demanded that the Mexican Government stick to the country's anti-imperialist traditions. In this regard, the PSUM warned that the U.S. Government seeks to involve other countries directly in its warmongering and intervention strategy, using all possible means to convince people and governments of the need to align to the U.S. "schizophrenic crusade against the enemies of the national security of the Yankee imperialism."

The PSUM criticized the tepid position of the Mexican Government regarding the terrorist and criminal attack by the Reagan administration on Libya.

The PSUM also questioned the attitude of the big radio and television merchants who strictly abide by the Reagan version: that the aggression was in self-defense.

PSUM LEADER, PROTESTERS CONDEMN U.S. 'AGGRESSION'

PA240420 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 19 Apr 86 p 2

[By Fernando Aguilar]

[Text] Speaking before hundreds of demonstrators who gathered at the Independence Monument, Pablo Gomez, secretary general of PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] yesterday came out in defense of Mexico and against the aggression of U.S. imperialism against the peoples of Nicaragua and Libya.

The march/meeting began at the Juarez Hemicycle at 1800 and ended at the Monument of the Independence Angel.

The Leftist Communist Unity [UIC], Revolutionary Patriotic Party [Partido Patriotico Revolucionario, PPR] and the Mexican Workers Party (PMT) participated in the march. As they passed in front of the U.S. Embassy, demonstrators burned U.S. flags and an effigy of the IMF and the Reagan administration and shouted slogans such as: "Reagan and Rambo are one and the same [son el mismo chango]" and "assassins, assassins," under the vigilant watch of soldiers and special antiriot squads who were guarding the U.S. Embassy.

During his speech, Pablo Gomez advocated a moratorium on the foreign debt, internal democratization of the country, and unity among the left to face a reactionary right that is uncontrollably gaining ground in the core of the government; they have been advocating the elimination of the common land and the right to strike lately. He also denounced compaigns on radio and television to strengthen private enterprise. He said that Jacob Zabludowski is one of those Reagan spokesmen who are trying to destabilize the nation." [quotation marks as published]

Meanwhile, Manuel Terrazas and Camilo Valenzuela, secretary generals of UIC and PPR, respectively, demanded that the examples of miguel Hidalgo, Guerrero, Emiliano Zapata, Juarez, and Cardenas, who fought for the independence and sovereignty of the Mexican people, be emulated.

They rejected U.S. meddling in Nicaragua and condemned the aggression against the Libyan people.

LEGISLATORS DEMAND U.S., LIBYA HOLD TALKS AT UN

FL250136 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0039 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress demanded today that the United States and Libya submit their differences to the United Nations. The permanent commission also strongly condemned aggression by one country against another.

This was stated in a document signed by the Permanent Commission legislators who represent seven political parties, the governing PRI, the right-wing National Action and Mexican Democratic Parties, and the leftist parties Popular Socialist, Mexican Workers', Revolutionary Workers', and United Socialist Party of Mexico.

The document also condemns all forms of terrorism that assault human values and demands the end of all forms of aggression between nations. Conflicts between states, as serious as these may be, should be confronted through dialogue at the specific organisms of the international community, continues the document.

The Mexican legislators added that diplomatic and political negotiations should be formulated to resolve conflicts of state which make it necessary to reject the use of force and seek peaceful solutions that respect the principles and norms of international law.

Finally, the document notes the high level of danger represented by a confrontation between the United States and Libya and the natural repercussions this would have on the stability of a strategic area like the Mediterranean.

JOINT INVESTMENT VENTURES WITH PRC DISCUSSED

FL242128 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1925 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- A group of PRC diplomats have met with Mexican Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development officials to explore possibilities of installing a textile plant in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez. The group of Chinese diplomats was headed by the Chinese consul and vice consul of the Mexican City of Tijuana, Li Fan and Yuan Dexing, an official spokesman of the Mexican Government reported.

Li and Yuan proposed a partnership between investors from their country and Ciudad Juarez -- in the northern state of Chihuahua -- to process locally harvested cotton with Chinese techniques and produce good quality export textiles. The spokesman said the two Chinese diplomats had talked about their country's investors' willingness to facilitate negotiations and, if financial problems arise, conduct trade by barter, thus eliminating the need for hard currency.

The Mexican Government spokesman also talked about the possibility of signing an agreement with the Chinese on Mexican export crafts and textiles and other Mexican goods. Relations between China and Ciudad Juarez will actually begin next November with an exposition of Chinese products in this Mexican northern city.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS 'ENEMIES' PLOT DESTABILIZATION

Officers Issue Declaration

PA250643 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0409 GMT 25 Apr 86

["Military Declaration" issued by the lieutenants of the 15th Training Seminar, dated 24 April 1986; read by Lieutenant Nino Baprio -- recorded]

[Text] We, representatives of the lieutenants of the Panamanian Defense Forces, in the face of our historic commitment to our homeland and its armed institution, considering that well-known political groups have attempted to increase their treacherous attacks and their anti-Panamanian campaigns, domestically as well as abroad, in an attempt to destroy the basis of the institution which we proudly represents and that, for the first time in our republican history, political groups, even though they may consider themselves very democratic and idealistic, have adopted the principle of constant submissiveness [entreguismo oficioso] and shameful incitement to possible foreign interventions, reincarnating themselves in the thoughts of [Philippe] Bunau-Varilla, thereby shaming their fellow countrymen; that those groups, with coarse malice, attempt to ignore the unbreakable umbilical cord which exists among the officers and troops of our forces and try to forget that today's officers were those who yesterday restrained the antipopular abuses of political and economic power and unhealthy submissiveness; that those groups, prompted from abroad and with a foreign mentality, want to corrupt the real and traditional democratic behavior and brotherhood that characterize the Panamanian people with their ideas that reflect a fascist tendency, their medieval retrograde philosophy, their attempt to disturb our republic's independent and nonaligned international policy, and their oligarchic desires for economic and political power:

We declare that we renew our oath as patriotic soldiers to reject in a straightforward manner all anti-Panamanian attacks and campaigns, from wherever they may come. As the responsible generation to take over [relevo generacional] command on the morning of 31 December 1999, we promise before the nation that we will not permit the conspiracy of local political groups, with foreign allies, aimed at attempting to prevent Panama from recovering its main natural resource in 1999, to be carried out by traitors to the homeland. We will not allow any national or external group to take from us the historic legacy that Commander Torrijos, together with his civilian and military people, obtained for the homeland through the current canal treaties that are today defended by the current high command, led by Commander Noriega with the General Staff of our forces. The officers who participated in this seminar are, together with our comrades in arms, guardians of the constitutional order and national integrity, and we shall not go down in history as men who turned their backs on their people, using the absurd pretext that because we were soldiers we were indolent in the face of the national anguish and vicissitudes, as the aforementioned groups would want.

We solemnly reiterate to all our worthy fellow countrymen that this canal will not be surrendered, subjected, co-administered, or compromised by our military generation and that we will safeguard the very Panamanian and nationalist legacy that Torrijos gave us yesterday and Noriega today.

[Signed] Panama, 24 April 1986

Noriega Statement

PA050652 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0414 GMT 25 Apr

[Statement by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, at Presidential Palace in Panama City on 24 April -- recorded]

[Text] Mr President of the Republic, ministers of state, honorable members of the local and foreign news media:

Mr President, on my return tonight to the country, from a mission you know about, I received the conclusions reached by the lieutenants of the institution during their 15th seminar. During the seminar they worked on matters that concern the nation.

As the democratic leader of the nation, the Defense Forces will give you their support according to the Constitution and the law. Therefore, we will not keep secret the decisions reached by the replacement forces, which we will release to the public.

The generation programmed to take over in 1999 considers that the insults being issued are a precedent to a plot. Therefore the institution, on behalf of the people it represents, of the entire country, from Bocas del Toro to Darien, is telling you about the plot, and it will deliver to you the resolution, the details of the plot being organized, the names of the plotters, and the plans, so that you may know what decisions the government should make to defend some of the nation's organizations; also so that every Panamanian, the Panamanians who struggled for the Torrijos-Carter treaties, may realize that we are facing enemies who are locally and internationally using money and lobbying efforts to prevent the canal from fulfilling its mission, which is to be Panamanian.

Mr President, tonight I will give you all the documents that the intelligence service and the lieutenants gave me. Thank you.

DE

Delvalle on 'Campaign of Slander'

PA250556 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0418 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Statement by President Eric Arturo Delvalle at the Presidential Palace in Panama City on 24 April -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens: Upon meeting today with the Defense Forces General Staff, which came to present the results of the latest professional seminar, I wish to share with all Panamanians a series of concerns and reflections on our current national situation.

I wish to send my sincere congratulations to the distinguished group of lieutenants in the Defense Forces who have successfully concluded a seminar to analyze and evaluate the political, social, and economic situation in Panama. This will help them to fulfill better their responsibilities concerning the protection and security of our homeland.

Upon concluding these evaluations, they have proven their capacity and readiness to serve the Panamanian community. The ideals they pursue are an element of the men in the armed forces; they are the most noble ideals because they entail complete dedication to the homeland's highest interests. When preparing -- through studies -- to safeguard Panama even better, they are readily assuming the grave responsibility of our generation in the year 2000. Thus, Panama will begin the 21st century free of conflicts and wars and completely at peace.

Our homeland is being threatened today, we have to admit this, by enemies who are working abroad. However, there are others who work within our homeland, availing themselves of our democracy, freedoms, and tolerance. They want to undermine the peaceful and harmonious political coexistence which must prevail among all Panamanians. As president of the republic, I have the responsibility to safeguard the integrity of our homeland and respect for our institutions. I reassure my pledge and decision to fulfill this vow. I am deeply concerned and angered by the campaign of slander, half-truths, and falsehoods spread by a minority of evil Panamanians who -- supported by their economic means and unmentionable complicities -- continue to encourage and incite national and international public opinion to create a climate of uncertainty and a vortex of destabilization that will have fatal consequences for our homeland.

The international situation is worrisome, and the increased tensions and conflicts might reach our coasts, if we do not act quickly and decisively, and plunge us into far worse misfortunes. No Panamanian of patriotic will and courage will ever want this for our country or his family. We have evidence of the seditious and destabilizing efforts exerted by those evil Panamanians. I now ask our foreign minister, who is here, to offer us a more detailed report of these elements and present the evidence which has allowed us to give this message to all our fellow citizens.

Abadia Quotes U.S. Document

PA250713 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0421 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Statement by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia at the Presidential Palace on 24 April -- recorded]

[Text] As you might recall, for some time now media opposing the government -- I will not mention specific names or specifically accuse anyone here -- I will address the Panamanian people with the truth, because that people will always understand us. [sentence as heard] For some weeks, some months now, an open war of lies and slander has been declared; we have reached the extreme in which any person or group of persons who opposes the governments is claiming the right to judge and condemn others on their own.

The time has come for us to speak the truth as it is and not behave, as the president said, like some groups who tell half-truths that are sometimes more harmful and poisonous than lies themselves. It is time that we confront this situation as good Panamanians; that we show who is telling the truth, that is who loves this country, and who is telling lies, that is who wants to destroy this country.

It has been said on innumerable occasions that the government and the Armed Forces promote illegal acts within the country as well as against persons transiting the country. An intelligence chief of Adolph Hitler's government said that a lie repeated 1,000 times becomes a truth. Tonight, in keeping with the respect deserved by the president, his cabinet, the general and his general staff, subofficials, all those present here, and the Panamanian people, we will speak the truth. We brought original documents that we can no longer keep secret, for the sake of calmness in this country. On many occasions we avoided involving ourselves in a diatribe or public confrontation, because this country needs the best efforts of its men and women to bring it out of the serious fiscal crisis it is experiencing. That is why we have dedicated ourselves, 24 hours a day, to working for the country and tried to avoid involving ourselves in a diatribe that would take away valuable work time needed by our fatherland.

A few weeks ago the Panamanian people learned about statements by the new U.S. ambassador in Panama, which the Panamanian Government did not consider to be the most appropriate. Some analysis was made, and the president decided to send the foreign minister directly to Washington to file a formal complaint before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The foreign minister made that trip on the orders of the executive and with the support of the armed forces. We brought back from the U.S. State Department the original statement in English, to which Panama has not added or taken away a single comma or period. This was the result of our meeting with the secretary of state, and we present it for your consideration during this special meeting. In this document the secretary of state specifically states that this document is available to anyone who wishes to read it; it states that specifically.

The enormous support -- I am trying to translate the original document now -- the enormous support given by the civilian government and the armed forces to the U.S. Government to curb drug trafficking in Latin America; they acknowledge the enormous support given by the armed forces and the civilian government of this country, the support that it has displayed to eradicate this scourge causing very serious damage in the United States and other parts of the world. This is an official statement by the U.S. State Department that we place at the disposition of the media and all those present here. This is the original text and is available to anyone who wishes to confirm what we are saying.

However, this was apparently not enough. General Torrijos said that it seems as if lies have sharp points and sink in quickly, and truths are blunt [es roma] and do not sink in. We are telling the truth here, and we know that it will hit the minds and hearts of the Panamanians.

We hold documents dated 21 april 1986. Continuously we have noted half-truths in the media opposing the government.

They always look for a way to do harm, but not to this government and the stability and peace we are experiencing, the progress we are beginning to see in our country after so many efforts and sacrifices by so many men and women in this country. I am going to take the liberty of translating parts of the official document issued by Mr Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state of Latin America [as heard], dated Monday, 21 April 1986.

One part of the document states: In one of the regions -- speaking of Central America -- one of the regions where we have so many problems -- speaking of CEntral america and Panama -- we note the almost total absence of significant problems in Panama. This is one quote.

He refers to other things that we will also publish later, according to the president's instructions. In one paragraph Mr Ambrams says, quote: In matters of controlling the production and trafficking of drugs, as well as the components or chemicals that make the drugs, we have received excellent cooperation from Panama, from the civilian government as well a from the Defense Forces, unquote. These are the words of Elliott Ambrams on Monday, 21 April before a special Senate commission.

I will read another paragraph, quote: I want to call very special attention to the cooperation of Panamanian authorities in the fulfillment of U.S. Coast Guards activities. Panama has one of the largest fleets in the world; more than 12,000 ships bear the Panamanian flag. We have received prompt, affirmative, and invariable answers from the Panamanian Government to board and search these boats when we believe they are carrying drugs.

The ships bearing the Panamanian flag have always been open to searches by U.S. authorities with the prompt and efficient approval of the Panamanian Government, unquote. This was another paragraph from Abrams' statement before the Senate. I repeat, these documents will be made public when the president gives his aproval.

Quote, from the socioeconomic point of view, the Panamanian peoples' situation is, in general terms, favorable. There is general freedom of political expression for government adversaries, and there is an effective Legislative Branch... [break in transmission]

Delvalle Speaks Again

PA250627 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0430 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Closing statement by President Eric Arturo Delvalle at the Presidential Palace in Panama City on 24 April -- recorded]

[Text] You have just heard Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Abadia's clear words; he has explained unequivocally a situation which displeases us and puts us to shame as Panamanians. Given the information, I want to urge our fellow citizens to disregard the falsehoods issued by the merchants of hate and those who plot to destroy our democratic institutions, and Panamanian family's harmony, and eventually, our country as a soveriegn and independent nation.

The blood of our martyrs is the energy which nourishes our national spirit. Our Defense Forces have inherited our martyrs' legacy and represent a vanguard bulwark which protects our citizens, families, security, institutions, and homeland. The government which I am honored to preside over is firmly united and has the loyalty of its armed corps, which rises and acts like a monolithic force, as one man, under the command of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his General Staff.

I urge all my fellow citizens to reflect and reject the falsehoods and rumors that Panama's enemies want to sow in your minds and hearts. Our minds and hearts harbor only the purest love for our homeland and the belief that peace and freedom are part of our nature, and those shall always prevail. Now, when most Panamanians live in a climate of peace and clam, is the time to engage in constructive work so that all, united, embark on the road toward progress and build the new homeland, the Panama of the year 2000. Thank you. [applause]

NORIEGA SPECIAL GUEST AT AREA DRUG MEETING

PA250324 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of Panama's Defense Forces, arrived in the country this afternoon after attending the international conference on the control of illegal drugs in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Gen Noriega attended the conference as a special guest, and he was the only armed forces chief of the continent to take part in the hemisphere conference organized by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA. On his way to Panama Gen Noriega stopped in Lima, Peru, where he met with Peruvian President Alan Garcia for 40 minutes.

COSTA RICA

PROTEST LODGED OVER NICARAGUAN BORDER CLASH

PA242005 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 24 Apr 86

[By Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Excerpts] San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Government has lodged a "vigorous" protest to Nicaragua for the violation of its territory by members of the Sandinist Army in the Las Tablitas de los Chiles border region on 16 April. According to Costa Rican officials, on that day an undetermined number of soldiers of the EPS was caught by surprise in Costa Rican territory chasing "counterrevolutionaries."

A Costa Rican patrol sent to the area clashed with EPS soldiers using mortar and weapons of small but powerful caliber, for about 15 minutes. There were no casualties, it was reported.

The protest note, delivered to the media by the Foreign Ministry today, was signed by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and was addressed to Acting Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

A day after the incident, in a note to Gutierrez, Tinoco denied that EPS troops had clashed with Costa Rican public force members and stressed that Sandinist posts had been attacked by the contras from Costa Rican territory, but that they had been repelled. "I agree with the opinion of the Nicaraguan Government," Gutierrez said, "that these serious incidents deteriorate the climate of detente and trust that must prevail among friendly nations."

But he added that he calls attention to the fact that this opinion "does not prevent the Nicaraguan Government from carrying out actions that show disrespect for Costa Rican sovereignty, such as that which caused the incident." According to Gutierrez, with this attitude, the Sandinist government contributes, "in a very effective way" to make difficult and hinder the path to the peace wanted in the area and to an overall solution for the Central American conflict.

The Costa Rican official told Tinoco that "there is no possibility" that EPS troops got confused, because a short distance from the site of the clash, to the northeast, there is landmark No. 12, which marks the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA COMMUNIQUE ON DEATH OF ERP LEADER

PA242315 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Coprefa communique; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] terrorist leader Cesar Alberto Valle Hernandez, whose pseudonym was "Poncho," was killed in combat on San Salvador volcano when the column he fought with clashed with military troops from the paratroopers battalion on 11 April. Valle Hernandez was a priest, ordained at the San Jose de la Montana Seminary in 1966. He remained active within the clergy until 1971. He later studied political science at the UCA [University of Central America], completing work in 1980, leaving only his thesis pending.

Poncho's militancy within the terrorist ranks dates back to 1977 when, due to the loss of his Christian faith and to his political ideology, he joined the ERP. He occupied the following positions within the rebel group: leader in the political field, teacher and counselor for fighters, and awareness leader for the masses.

He traveled to Mexico on 25 October 1981 to obtain documents and later traveled to Nicaragua. On 16 November 1981 he left for Nicaragua and remained there until January 1983, using the name Maximiliano Ruiz. On 17 May 1985, he was captured by 1st Infantry Brigade troops in Loma de Ramos Hamlet, Guazapa Jurisdiction, when the terrorist column he was a member of was attacked by surprise. He was later sent before a military court. On 23 October of the same year he was released from the Mariona penitentiary as part of the exchange for the release of Inez Guadalupe Duarte Duran, daughter of President Duarte, and the kidnapped mayors. On that date he rejoined the terrorist ranks and remained there until he was killed in the clash in question.

Meanwhile, one terrorist was killed and one M-16 rifle confiscated along with war materiel in a clash between an FMLN column and troops from the 5th Infantry Brigade. The clash took place near the El Pedregal Hamlet, San Vicente jurisdiction. In addition to this, five members of the FPL [People's Liberation Forces] presented themselves at the 5th Infantry Brigade headquarters. The rebel collaborators were identified as Pablo Antonio Sanchez, Cristian Esperanza, and the minors Nicolasa Esther, Elmer Giovanni, and Maria Doris Esperanza. They said they are from the (Las Aranas) hamlet and farm, Jiquilisco jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. Also, six pylons were destroyed by extremists in (Llano del Quilamate) canton, Jucuapa jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

COPREFA REPORTS DEATH OF AIR FORCE PILOT

PA242319 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Coprefa communique, date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] At approximately 0815 hours today Lieutenant Francisco Hernan Pereira, an Air Force pilot, heroically died in combat while on a reconnaissance mission in a helicopter. The incident took place in the vicinity of La Mesa Hill, north of San Ildefonso, San Vicente Department, where Hernan Pereira was shot from the ground. The helicopter, which suffered no damage, was guided by the copilot to the Air Force base in this capital.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA SPEAKS ON REGIONAL ISSUES, U.S. ROLE

PA250726 Managua International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at an awards ceremony for former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres at the Cesar Augusto Silvo Conventions Center in Managua on 24 April -- recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...to Mr Jose Figueres Ferrer. We also welcome the Costa Rican friends and relatives who accompany him tonight. All the people in Nicaragua, all of us, have witnessed the firm, tenacious, and constant struggle carried out by Mr Jose Figueres Ferrer. The militants, fighters, founders, and forgers of the FSLN have witnessed that struggle.

We admired and respected that struggle because the struggle that Jose Figueres has carried out in his homeland, Costa Rica, in favor of democracy, justice, liberty, and peace is a struggle which was not limited to the Costa Rican nation. It is a struggle which he has carried out with a Central American spirit, with a Latin American spirit and determination.

Our people, our Central American nations, have been continuously threatened by wars and interventions; they have even been threatened, as I said, by the United States' expansionist policies during the last century. There has been a lack of political and historical understanding among the U.S. leaders concerning Central American, Latin American, and Caribbean problems. Hence, their systematic mistakes, arrogant positions, military intervention, and lack of political respect for the Latin American peoples, nations, and governments.

Following the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution, the United States remembered again that there are countries here, quite close to Washington and New York. Neighboring countries in Central America and Latin America: forgotten, attacked, and disrespected countries which are discovered again after the explosion of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. The U.S. Government again has the opportunity to change its dialogue of force, or policy of force, toward Latin America. It insists on this policy of force; insists on creating problems among the Central American nations, in shedding the Latin American people's blood in the brother countries of Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The United States insists even more in shedding the Latin American and Caribbean people's blood. An evil policy of force continues to prevail in the United States. A policy of force may be just and necessary, for example, to achieve democracy in Costa Rica, as Jose Figueres achieved it, or to bring a democratic change in Nicaragua, as the FSLN has brought. However, the United States continues to cling to this evil policy of force against the Central American and Latin American people.

Latin America has raised its voice to reject the policy of force used by the U.S. leaders, during the battle which has been waged these last 4 years. Latin America has raised its voice to advocate a dialogue among the Central American nations; to promote a dialogue and peace among the Central American governments. Jose Figueres' voice and speeches -- always firm and coherent -- have also prevailed, defending the cause of peace, the principle of brotherhood among the Central American people, between the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan peoples. He has always advocated peaceful solutions, supported political solutions, and rejected aggressive and warmongering proposals.

Nicaragua, the Sandinist people's revolution, does not represent a threat for any Central American state; it does not represent a threat for any nation in Central America, Latin America, or the Caribbean. The Sandinist people's revolution does not represent a threat for the United States. We are a threat against the forms of exploitation which prevailed in Nicaragua; we are a threat against the illiteracy which prevailed in Nicaragua; we are a threat against the lack of housing, health services, and jobs which prevailed in Nicaragua; we are a threat against the violations of human rights which had been institutionalized by the Somozist regime in Nicaragua: We are a threat against colonialist, neocolonialist, and racist policies. That is definitely a fact.

We have struggled against all this and will continue to struggle. Nicaragua is not a threat to any Central American state.

The United States, the current U.S. rulers, have made an aggressive speech against Nicaragua to justify their terrorist policy against Nicaragua, and we are using the exact words, terrorist policy against Nicaragua. It is terrorism when you pay a band of criminals or mercenaries to come and murder the Nicaraguan people; to murder children, women, and old people in Nicaragua. It is terrorism to pay a band of mercenaries to come to destroy schools, health centers, and agricultural cooperatives in Nicaragua. It is terrorism to declare an economic embargo so the Nicarguan people suffer more hunger and have more needs. It is terrorism to disregard international laws, the suggestions of the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. All that is terrorism.

They have drafted there terrorist policy using the excuse that Nicaragua is a threat to the security of the central American states, that Nicaragua is a threat to Costa Rica, to Honduras, to all of the Central America, to all of the Latin america, to Mexico, and to the United States itself.

Why have they drafted this policy? To try to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution by using their mercenary forces, just as they have been doing, and accompanying the use of mercenary forces with a demagogic speech in favor of peace and peacemaking efforts in Latin America. This is why it is not surprising that at the same time that the President of the United States makes threatening speeches against Nicaragua, his representative visits the Latin American countries, saying that the U.S. Government and President Reagan support the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group.

While Mr Habib repeats that lie-filled speech in all the Latin American nations, trying to build false hopes, the truth is that the President of the United States, after bombing Libya -- causing the deaths of children -- has unleashed a campaign against our country. This makes Nicaragua an immediate target for a foreign military terrorist action that the U.S. rulers may be planning, or have probably already planned.

Mr Habib's words are demagogic, false, and cynical, while his President in Washington keeps saying that contrary, and while U.S. Army special troops are being deployed at the border with Nicaragua to support the mercenary forces that they have settled in Honduran territory. Such actions are not promotion a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua, but between U.S. troops that occupy Honduran territory and Nicaraguan troops. Of course, the excuse the U.S. Government would use to justify this type of action would be the alleged threat Nicaragua poses for Honduras. They already tried to do this in March, during Holy Week.

All those positions that Mr Habib is trying to sell are false positions. They are aimed at surprising Latin American opinion. The truth is here in Central American territory, where the U.S. troops continue to threaten Nicaragua, where the U.S. rulers have admitted that CIA advisers are visiting mercenary camps in Honduran territory; by tomorrow, the United States will probably admit that military advisers are with the mercenary forces. This is where the political and aggressive speech made by the President of the United States is becoming a reality, quite the contrary to the false hopes that Mr Habib is trying to build. They are playing a two-faced game. However, we have invited and continue to invite the U.S. Government to establish peace, establish real peace; establish peace without discussing Nicaragua's domestic problems. The domestic situation of a state cannot be negotiated. There is no such precedent.

Of course, the United states and Nicaragua could set a precedent if the United States were willing to discuss with Nicaragua its domestic situation. We would then give them our opinions on their democracy and would be willing to hear their side on the Nicaraguan democracy. We are willing to talk seriously, we have always talked seriously. When we use the phrase to speak seriously we mean that the first necessary step is a dialogue between the U.S. Government -- the U.S. Government that does not want the Nicaraguan revolution -- and the Nicaraguan Government.

The parties in conflict must talk, they must hold a dialogue. This is not a conflict between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, nor between Nicaragua and Honduras, nor between Nicaragua and El Salvador, nor between Nicaragua and Guatemala. This is a conflict between the United States and Nicaragua. Therefore, the logical thing is for the United States and Nicaragua to hold a dialogue. For what reason? So we can reach agreements for peace and security. We are willing to discuss the U.S. concerns over its security, and to reach mutual security commitments. We have a disposition for peace.

If the United States takes that step, the first step to accept a dialogue with Nicaraguan in order reach an aggreement allowing the normalization of relations, then Mr Habib's speech will no longer be false nor a lie. President Reagan would probably stop talking and acting as he is now. If the U.S. Government is truly in favor of the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora and Lima Groups, then why does it not listen to Latin America, in the voices of eight former [as heard] foreign minsters, who suggested the need for a dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua?

It is up to the U.S. Government to show that it wants peace. Nicaragua has the will and spirit for peace, but it also has the determination to fight to defend its sovereignty, self-determination, and independence.

On delivering this recognition to Don Jose Figueres, on delivering the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order in its highest grade, the San Jacinto Battle, we are putting it on the chest of the Costa Rican people. The Nicaraguan workers, soldiers, youth, women, children, intellectuals, and all our nation are delivering today through Jose Figueres, their love, sympathy, and solidarity to the Costa Rican people, by delivering the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order to someone who well deserves it. We are delivering this order through Jose Figueres and Cost Rica, to the Central American people, to the Latin American people, and to the peoples of the world, who love peace. Thank you.

D'ESCOTO CONDEMNS U.S. AIR ATTACK ON LIBYA

PA250023 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who is currently visiting Athens, Greece, has condemned the U.S. air attack against Libya. The high-ranking Nicaraguan official described the attack as a flagrant act of state terrorism. Foreign Minister D'Escoto described the Reagan adminitration as infamous and criminal.

Willing To Dialogue With U.S.

PA242220 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Athens, 24 Apr (EFE) -- Nicaragua is willing to start a friendly dialogue with the United States, based on equality and national independence.

The statement was issued today in Athens by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, during a news conference in which he denounced the continous attacks by the United States' mercenaries against his country. D'Escoto said that the United States' attack on Libya is "nothing more and nothing less" than a case of state terrorism.

Referring to Nicaragua's case, he said that the International Court of Justice in The Hague will decide, within 3 weeks, who is the terrorist.

Following the ousting of the Somoza dictatorship, more than 11,000 Nicaraguans have died as a result of attacks from the mercenaries who are paid by the United States, D'Escoto added. The contras' actions have also destroyed the production infrastructure in Nicaragua.

"They want us to counter their weapons with the burning of incense," but we will continue to defend our sovereignty, it was stated by the minister. He expressed his deep concern for the U.S. President's arrogance and actions, which violate international principles and the UN Charter.

Referring to the EEC, the minister said he is "quite worried" about certain member-countries' tendency to follow the United States' lead. He added that there is no evidence whatsoever of Libya's alleged participation in an attack in Berlin or the bomb brought aboard a TWA airplane. Nevertheless, he asserted his satisfaction and hope that the EEC will not join the embargo imposed by the United States against Nicaragua in May 1985.

The Nicaraguan minister, who arrived in Athens last Tuesday, coming from New Delhi -- where he participated in the nonaligned countries' conference -- will go to Paris tomorrow for an official visit.

Official Greek sources said that D'Escoto requested Greece's support in the EEC, during his meeting with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. We are asking our friends in Europe to help us explain to the United States that the way it is treating Nicaragua does not serve the world's peace interests, D'Escoto said. He expressed his concern over the threats to peace in a world where the United States is making every country bow its head to Washington's interests and wishes.

The fact that we are continuing conversations to find a solution to the problems in Central America, despite the continuous attacks of the counterrevolutionaries, is more proof of Nicaragua's flexibility, D'Escoto said.

He also talked about Cardinal Obando y Bravo, whose conduct he said represents a "theological scandal" which has a negative effect on the Church of Nicaragua, Latin America, and the whole world. After betraying his people by going to the United States to ask for the appoval of the $100 million to kill people, Cardinal Obando y Bravo is still moving about freely in Nicaragua. In any other country, D'Escoto said, Obando y Bravo would have been tried on charges of high treason.

In reply to a question about the Catholic Church criticizing the participation of priests in the Nicaraguan Government, D'Escoto asked: Who is the church? And he said the church in his country supports his participation to help the Nicaraguan people.

"I cannot refuse to help my people," D'Escoto said, finally adding that terrorism is a problem that concerns us all and that state terrorism is the worst form of terrorism, promoted very often by the United States.

During his official visit to Athens, D'Escoto met with Papandreou and Papoulas and with Deputy Prime Minister Ioannis Kharalambopoulos and Archbishop Serafin of Athens.

TALAVERA ASSERTS WILLINGNESS TO SIGN CONTADORA

PA242215 San Salvador Canal Doct Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera has said that his country is willing to sign the Contadora document and participate in all of the mechanisms that serve peace in Central America.

The Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, who is visiting El Salvador, referred during interviews here to the nonintervention of the United States in the internal affairs of the Central American countries and the condemnation of the U.S. attack on Libyan targets.

[Begin recording] [Talavera] The governments of the five Central American countries have agreed to further previous efforts to establish an agenda for the Esquipulas meeting. The agenda must sum up the consensus, willingness, and commitment to achieve political and peaceful solutions in our region.

This is why I am in San Salvador at this time, making this effort. The Central American governments are trying to make this meeting a success.

[Unidentified reporter] What other [word indistinct] do you believe should be established in the Central American region to achieve peace?

[Talavera] I believe that it is essential that the U.S. Government stop, for example, its efforts to provide millions of dollars, as in the case of the requested $100 million, which is currently on the U.S. Congress agenda and which will promote greater violence in our region and support the irregular groups that have been directed and financed by the U.S. Government with the intention of toppling our government.

[Reporter] Does Nicaragua agree that the Nicaraguan opposition parties should be allowed to participate in the Central American parliament?

[Leon Talavera] Nicaragua has never restricted the opposition parties. They have excluded themselves from some of the electoral exercises we have carried out due to certain differences with the government, but we have no objections whatsoever to the different political sectors' participation in a project that has been described as pluralist.

[Reporter] The Brazilian foreign minister said recently that Nicaragua will sign the Contadora document within a few days.

[Talavera] That is true.

[Reporter] Why was the Nicaraguan position expressed at the latest Contadora meeting changed?

[Talavera] At the latest Contadora meeting there was no document ready to be signed. The latest peace document for Central America was presented in September 1985 by Contadora, and it still has two chapters that are subject to debate. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister said Nicaragua supports the peace efforts being made by the Contadora Group and denied that his government has refused to sign the document. According to Talavera, Nicaragua is making every possible effort to achieve peace in Central America.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CRITICIZES REAGAN REMARKS

PA241441 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua German Shlyapnikov has said that the United States could carry out against Nicaragua the same military action it carried out against Libya. Shlyapnikov described President Reagan's charges that Nicaragua is becoming another Libya on the U.S. doorstep as false. He stressed that Reagan's remarks seek to justify dangerous military actions against a sovereign nation. Here is the statement of the Soviet ambassador:

[Begin recording] First of all, it is a continuation of the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua. From that viewpoint, there is nothing new about them. It is a false accusation. It is a charge that seeks to justify the aggressive U.S. actions against another sovereign country, in this case Nicaragua. This is clear.

There is another aspect. In my view, with such statements, the U.S. Administration wants to prepare U.S. and international public opinion for more dangerous, aggressive, and important actions against Nicaragua. That is why when he says these things that Nicaragua is another Libya on the U.S. doorstep, he means that the United States can carry out the same military action against Nicaragua at some moment when it believes it is necessary. This is a dangerous statement from the perspective of the development of U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. President's statement must also be seriously considered by all peace-loving forces in Central America and in Latin America in general so as to stop this kind of dangerous development that can lead to a more serious situation in Central America. It can create a much more dangerous center of tension than the one that currently exists.

Therefore, we remain firm in our solidarity with all the peoples who struggle against the U.S. aggression. We remain firm in our solidarity with the Nicaraguan people who are defending their sovereignty, independence, and their right to live in the face of the U.S. aggression. [end recording]

PAPER DEFENDS SOVIET PRESENCE, COOPERATION

PA250316 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 23 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Adolfdo Miranda Saenz: "What Are the Russians Doing in Nicaragua?"]

[Text] "Is it true that after 2200 hours, military vehicles transporting Russian soldiers patrol the streets of Managua and arrest all Nicas [Nicaraguans] who are out at that hour?" This is one of many such questions asked outside Nicaragua. This is due to the propaganda against our revolution.

Reagan has insisted that the "Soviet presence" in Nicaragua is dangerous for the United States. He uses this as an excuse for his aggression. We know that a people who hold their dignity in high esteem, as our people do, cannot allow anyone to question their sovereign right to have friendships and good relations with all the countries on earth they want to, and do not have to give explanations to any other country, like the United States, regardless how powerful this country may be. To try and tell us what we must do is an insolence we cannot accept. Latin American countries like Mexico, Argentina, and Peru, have enjoyed good and fruitful relations with the USSR for many years. Costa Rica had diplomatic relations with the USSR many years before the triumph of our revolution.

What are the Soviets doing in our country? What do our relations with the USSR involve? The USSR supplies us with merchandise with highly favorable credit conditions. It also buys our products, paying with foreign exchange. These payments are made in cash. In 1985 the commercial exchange amounted to $300 million; 20 times more than in 1981. In 1985 the USSR supplied us with more than 2,000 vehicles (cars, tractors, as well as excavators, cranes, and public works machinery) and with more than two-thirds of our oil and oil by-product needs. It also supplied us with metal and aluminum sheets, acids, chemical products, tires, and asbestos.

In addition, in 1985 the USSR supplied us with 6.5 million meters of cloth; 147,000 tons of carbamate; 800,000 tons of vegetable oil; 500,000 tons of animal fat; polyethylene; paper used for printing purposes (paper used to print EL NUEVO DIARIO, BARRICADA, and even LA PRENSA); among other things. Also last year, the USSR sent us very valuable donations that included 70,000 tons of rice, wheat, and flour. They also sent us 8,000 tons of metal sheets, 4 million cans of meat and sardines, and other products that amounted to $30 million.

During the present month of April, the first donations of rice and wheat for 1986 will arrive from the USSR. The USSR is buying our sugar, cotton, meat, and bananas. Payment for these products is made with foreign exchange.

An "inter-Sputnik" station is being installed on the banks of Nejapa Lagoon. This station is equipped with television and telephone channels to improve our international satellite communications system.

The USSR is helping us greatly in feasibility studies to reactivate our gold production. It is doing this with its geologists and modern mining equipment. This work is being done in the "El Limon," "La India," and "Imire Central" mines. A group of Soviet engineers and technicians is carrying out serious studies on the possibilities of oil and natural gas in Nicaragua. The Soviet cooperation includes help in hydroelectric and geothermal projects, the construction of fuel dumps, irrigation plans for 36,000 hectares in Tipitapa, a textile factory with a yearly capacity of more than 3,000 tons of thread, and other areas.

Hundreds of Nicaraguan students are studying various careers in the USSR, and have received Soviet scholarships. Soviet professors work, without pay, in our universities and technology centers. Soviet doctors work in several hospitals throughout the country. Just recently, the Soviet hospital in Chinandega saw patient number 300,000.

There are many other areas in which Nicaragua receives Soviet help; however, the length of this article does not allow me to list each of them. There are no Soviet soldiers on the streets in Managua or any other area of Nicaragua. The Soviet presence in Nicaragua is only in the areas of aid and fraternal cooperation, based on an absolute mutual respect; respect for our sovereignty and freedom that we Nicas are very proud of. This does not represent any danger for U.S. security or for the security of any other country.

Reagan will always find an excuse to attack us; however, I do not see why we should change our feelings of fraternal friendship toward the Soviets.

Soviet-Nicaraguan relations are clearly beneficial for us and according to the agreements we have signed, our relations with the USSR will develop further as will our relations with the other socialist countries. We can only win from these relations. Why change this?

MALMIERCA AT UN CALLS REAGAN 'TERRORIST LEADER'

FL251254 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1101 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] United Nations -- Today Cuba told the UN Security Council that Washington is the headquarters of international terrorism and that President Ronald Reagan is its undisguised leader. Addressing the UN Security Council, which is meeting at the request of the Nonaligned Countries Movement, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli spoke of the grave situation created in the central Mediterranean as a consequence of the aggressive actions of the United States against Libya.

Malmierca stressed the view of the Nonaligned Countries Movement that the U.S. aggression against Libya endangers peace, stability, and international security, saying that world solidarity is needed by that north African nation in view of the threat of new aggressions reiterated by President Reagan. In another part of his address, Malmierca denounced the propaganda campaign being carried out against Libya by the White House to present the Libyan Government as the organizer and perpetrator of terrorist acts and deserving of direct punishment.

HAVANA COMMENTS ON FUTURE WIDENING OF U.S. ATTACKS

FL241316 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dissatisfied with the crime he has just committed against the Libyan people, U.S. President Ronald Reagan is now repeating his terrorist threats against Nicaragua, Iran, and Syria. The present occupant of the White House insists obsessively on his terrorist policy, alleging now that the Sandinist government plans to create a new Libya on the threshold of the United States.

In his attempts to get the Congress to approve his plan to aid the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, Reagan has had no scruples in saying that the contras are the ones who are slowing down the purported plan to make Nicaragua into another Libya, and he has tried to justify the bombing attacks against the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi with the traditional pretext of protecting U.S. lives. Let us not forget that, with that same argument, Reagan gave the order to invade and occupy the small Caribbean island of Grenada in 1983.

In a note addressed to Secretary of State George Shultz, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has put things in their place by declaring that Reagan, by making such statements, has made use of state terrorism and is trying to create conditions for greater and more serious actions against Nicaragua.

Addressing a group of journalists, President Reagan again made threats, this time against Iran and Syria, saying that military measures could be taken against these two countries if he managed to obtain proof that their governments were responsible for a terrorist act. Having made himself into a universal judge in his most recent statements, Reagan has gone so far as to say that the United States could bomb Teheran or Damascus if he manages to get what he considers to be sufficient proof that the Governments of Iran and Syria are implicated in what he describes as terrorist actions.

REAGAN ADDRESS TO HERITAGE FOUNDATION NOTED

FL231324 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has told new lies and uttered new threats against Nicaragua and has asserted that he will obtain congressional approval for his request for more funds for the mercenary bands. During a speech at the Washington headquarters of the ultrarightist Heritage Foundation, Reagan said he intends to increase his pressure on the legislators to obtain what he wants.

REPORTAGE ON ECLA MEETING IN MEXICO CITY

Melendez on Foreign Debt

PA240350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Report by Francisco Ramirez in Mexico City -- live or recorded]

[Text] ECLA experts continue to examine the foreign debt problem in Latin America and the Caribbean and the grave consequences derived from the adjustment and stabilization policies imposed on the debtor countries. The delegates from more than 50 countries, observers, and international organizations hope to conclude their work -- although somewhat late -- on Wednesday, when they will begin the ministerial phase of the ECLA's 21st period of sessions.

Certain delegates to the plenary meeting of experts stated their conviction that the two topics have become the most difficult part of the agenda, given the magnitude of our regional crisis and the stubbornness of developed capitalist countries. The Latin American group has already established its position in this concern, pointing out that the $368-billion foreign debt cannot be paid under current conditions without sustained economic development. Countries in the subcontinent indicated that the solution to the foreign debt problem demands an immediate political dialogue between debtors and creditors, respecting the principle of shared responsibility and establishing an equitable distribution of costs in the adjustment process.

Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, announced uppon his arrival in Mexico City that his country will advocate strengthening Latin American and Caribbean unity and thus find solutions to the dramatic economic and social situation. During his statements to the news media, the Cuban official discussed the foreign debt problem, unequal exchange, Latin American cooperation, and programs to readjust the economy. He also criticized the so-called Baker Plan's inefficiency. He said it is not a real and specific solution to Latin American and Caribbean problems.

De La Madrid's Agenda Requests

PA240435 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico has asked the Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLA, to call a special meeting to discuss the urgent need to restructure international economic relations. At the opening on 23 April of the 21st period of sessions of ECLA's ministerial meeting, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid asked that the ECLA meeting discuss the foreign debt problem, commercial relations, technological aid, and international cooperation.

Argentine Planning Secretary Bernardo Grinspun said that his country supports President De la Madrid's proposal because it will be a good opportunity to discuss regional problems in which more countries will participate, unlike the Cartagena Consensus in which only 11 countries of the continent with the highest foreign debt are represented. Grinspun said that the foreign debt problem should be discussed with the creditor countries. We should demand the reduction of the interest rates which, he added, should be half of what they are now.

Economic Issues Discussed

PA241649 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] The participants at the 21st ministerial meeting of the UN's ECLA continue their discussion in Mexico City of policies for the stabilization, adjustment, and reactivation of the economies of the countries of the region. Spokesmen of several delegations believe that the main problem is that of the foreign debt, which is the principal cause of the constant transfer of resources abroad. Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has stated that the global process of adjustment of the world economy was particularly inequitable for the debtor countries and especially for Latin America's development. Argentine Norberto Gonzalez, executive secretary of ECLA, said that interest rates on the payments of the foreign debt service must be quickly reduced. If this and other goals are not achieved, he said, the future of the region will be uncertain.

Melendez Rejects U.S. Remarks

FL242125 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2053 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Today Cuba strongly rejected a violent attack made by the U.S. delegation and warned that it is ready to give appropriate political, economic, and/or military response to any Washington action. Ernesto Melendez, head of the Cuban delegation, refuted the remarks made by the U.S. representative during his address to the 21st ECLA meeting. The U.S. delegate accused Cuba of introducing unacceptable political elements in this economy meeting and said Cuba and Nicaragua are encouraging subversion in Latin America.

The Nicaraguan delegation said the United States insulted Latin America and this ECLA meeting with the slanderous lies it said about his country. The U.S. delegate had asserted that Nicaragua is a threat to U.S. and Central America's safety. The Nicaraguan representative called on the U.S. people to think about the crazy things President Reagan is doing against the whole world every day.

CEMA MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

FL250228 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] The 49th CEMA meeting for maritime transportation cooperation concluded today with the signing of a multi-lateral agreement. During the meeting, methodological charts were presented to accelerate the scientific-technical development of socialist countries. Among the outstanding agreements are those related to the consumption of combustible fuel and energy on ships as well as the elaboration of technological schemes to protect the marine environment from contamination. These general agreements will be applied in accordance to each country's condition.

VOA REPEATER PROJECT IN PUERTO RICO CRITICIZED

PA241650 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary -- read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] It was confirmed in San Juan that the plans to lease a vast area in Coba Rojo, in southwest Puerto Rico, are already underway. In this area, Washington will install a repeater of the Voice of America, or the VOA as it is commonly known.

It is well known that since the reactionary Ronald Reagan rose to the presidency he has been involved in what has been called the war of airwaves -- the use of radio propaganda so that through misinformation or clumsy lies he can increase his efforts to erode socialism and attack the causes of the peoples for peace, independence, and national liberation. As part of a gigantic expansion of radio transmissions abroad, the United States has begun -- at a cost of almost $2 billion -- the construction or modernization of VOA repeaters on practically all the continents.

Regarding the VOA plans in Puerto Rico, there is increasing opposition to the repeater in Cabo Rojo, which is designed to retransmit VOA programs 24 hours a day, every day of the week to northern South America, the Caribbean, Central America, and western Africa. Political parties, civic organizations, religious groups, and the Puerto Rican people in general reject the plans to build in Cabo Rojo the main station of the network of VAO repeaters in the Caribbean and Central America. There are more than enough arguments to oppose this project of the USIS because the installation of such a repeater will be made in an area that has valuable archeological deposits and great tourist, agricultural, livestock, and commercial potential. All this would be lost by the Puerto Rican people.

The concern on the colonized island in the face of electromagnetic contamination is also notable because recent studies link shortwaves with neurological ailments, mental disturbances, and negative effects on the psychological behavior of human beings. In Vernon Valley in New Jersey, after approximately 14 antennas for satellite communications were erected, there were many cases of spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, and the births of many children with serious neurological problems, including several cases of mongolism.

Puerto Ricans are also concerned about the possibility that the land transferred to vOA in Cabo Rojo will be used for military purposes. This is a very justifiable concern because the U.S. media has disclosed that the new technology used in VOA modernization plans include the monitoring and transmission of coded information via satellite. It was also said that the repeater built in Sri Lanka complements the communications network of the U.S. 7th war fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Puerto Ricans have another reason that is more than enough to reject the Cabo Rojo project: It is that the construction of the VOA repeater will imply that Puerto Rican territory is being used as the main tool for ideological aggression and a misinformation campaign against the brother countries of our America.

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL VISITS, CITED ON LIBYA, WALDHEIM

FL241952 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1832 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Austria has no proof of Libyan participation in terrorist attacks and this has been publicly announced by our government, said Herbert Neumayer, director of the federal press service of the Austrian Chancellory. Neumayer, visiting Cuba gave a speech at the Western European Study Center, where he said that his country condemns terrorism wherever it occurs and in no case have Austrian authorities accused Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of those criminal acts. In reference to the Yankee campaign against former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who is accused of being an active Nazi, he said that all the documents in question came from the United States. Neumayer said that this is a dirty blow from Washington to discredit the Austrian presidential candidate who defended the Palestinian people at the United Nations.

10,000 TONS OF SOVIET HURRICANE RELIEF RECEIVED

FL231515 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1411 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Havana's Mariel port workers have unloaded 10,000 tons of general merchandise in a 5-day record time from the Soviet ship Komsomolets Uzbekistana. With this achievement they salute May Day. The ship transported goods donated by the USSR to help alleviate damages caused to our country by Hurricane Kate. The unloading activities were conducted with voluntary work performed by Mariel port workers.

2 SOVIET COMPUTERS RECEIVED FOR STATISTICS USE

PA231449 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 86

["Note" on scientific achievements -- read by announcer]

[Text] The State Committee for Statistics of Cuba has dedicated a new calculations center equipped with two Soviet (?PF)1022 computers that will process statistics in Havana, which is the province where all the state central organizations are established. The two computers supplied to our country by the (Golorf) enterprise have been produced by the Unified System of Electronic Machines, (?Insumso), of CEMA.

The characteristics of this equipment are as follows: approximately 500,000 characters of internal memory, 88,000 operations per second, four Polish printers, and four card readers produced in Czechoslovakia. The equipment also includes 15 towers of Bulgarian disks of 29 characters each; 10 towers of (?Czech) magnetic bands, as well as GDR-made equipment to prepare data. Cuba is working hard to equip the various economic, services, and science sectors with modern computers. The socialist members of CEMA are cooperating with Cuba in order to carry out this plan.

BRIEFS

THAI AMBASSADOR RECEIVED -- Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State, has received in a solemn meeting His Excellency Sirajaya Buddhi-Baedya, who presented his credentials as ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand. [Excerpt] [Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 85 FL]

JAMAICA

OPPOSITION RAPS BUDGET STATEMENT POSTPONEMENT

FL242032 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, April 24, CANA -- The opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) ridiculed Prime Minister Edward Seaga's postponement of his budget statement as evidence of economic confusion in the government and discord with international lending agencies.

PNP leader Michael Manley said Seaga had been forced into the delay because of his inability to reconcile the differences between his interpretation on national economic indices and the views of the international financial lending agencies in whose hands he has placed Jamaica in hock.

The government's JAMPRESS News Agency, in announcing the postponement from today until May 1, said it was to allow the prime minister time to complete four critically important negotiations on matters he will address in fleshing out the J5.8 billion dollar package that was presented to parliament.

The PNP, which is not represented in parliament having boycotted the controversial 1983 election, said it [would] go ahead with a presentation of a planned alternative budget in its regular peoples forum on Monday.

Finance circles have been speculating that the budget postponement was primarily due to talks Seaga is having with a joint team from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which recently reported on an earlier fact-finding visit.

The mission's report has not been made public, but speculation is that the team was unhappy with elements of Seaga's policy and possibly disapproved of some of his plans. It is also believed that the prime minister is tieing up aid commitments from international agencies which might be critical to his budget.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

DEMONSTRATORS PICKET U.S. EMBASSY FOR 2 HOURS

FL240010 Bridgetown CANA in English 2340 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 23, CANA -- About 25 people today staged a two-hour picket of the United States Embassy in Port-of-Spain.

The demonstration, organised by the Committee for Labour Solidarity and the Trinidad and Tobago Workers Association, was to protest the recent United States air strikes against Libya and U.S. backed war in the Caribbean shortly. Security at the embassy was strengthened.

SPONSORSHIP OF UN RESOLUTION ON U.S. CRITICIZED

FL250054 Bridgetown CANA in English 2351 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, April 24, CANA -- THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN today lashed out at Trinidad and Tobago's sponsorship of a resolution condemning the United States air strikes on Libya presented but not passed at the United Nations Security Council on Monday. The resolution, sponsored by Trinidad and Tobago and four other council members and voted for by nine countries was voted against by five countries. It must rate as the biggest diplomatic blunder the government has ever made, worse than the refusal to take part in the Grenada invasion that outraged most of the population, states the paper in an editorial entitled Stupidity at the UN.

The paper says that the public of Trinidad and Tobago has been bewildered and astonished at the vote and asks who government was representing when it took the vote. It says that it expects External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir or Prime Minster George Chambers to offer some kind of explanation in due course. The fact that the resolution was defeated makes no difference as the damage has been done, the paper complains.

In the eyes of the world we are now blackened with nations like our co-sponsors Madagascar, the Congo, Ghana, and the United Arab Emirates and with supporters like the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and China. Those who opposed were leaders of the free world, nations with whom we have been traditionally linked link the United States, Britain, and France.

The move, the paper continues, is a stupid and callous fiasco on your part. It has done the country a disservice as it is sure to damage our relations with the United States and weaken our diplomatic position in the eyes of our Western neighbors.

MINISTER SIGNS UN LAW OF SEA RATIFICATION

FL231629 Bridgetown CANA in English 1608 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 22, CANA -- External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir has signed the instrument of ratification of the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea -- which establishes a framework for the regulation of ocean space, the government said. The 320-article document contains provisions limiting national jurisdiction over ocean space, navigation, protection and preservation of marine environment, use and research of marine territories. It also establishes the international tribunal for the law of the sea and the Jamaican-based international seabed authority.

A release from the External Affairs Ministry said last night that the convention was signed on behalf of government on December 10, 1982. The instrument of ratification, initialled by Mahabir yesterday, is now to be deposited with the secretary general of the UN. The Trinidad and Tobago Government is drafting national legislation establishing this country's sovereign rights over an exclusive 200 nautical mile economic zone to give full force to the UN convention and its provisions.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ANTI-U.S. PROTEST RESULTS IN SUSPENDED CLASSES

FL231444 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, classes at the state-run autonomous university in Santo Domingo were suspended yesterday following a demonstration on Monday against the U.S. attack on Libya. Authorities say eight people were injured, one of them seriously. The decision to suspend classes was made by the schools' ruling council to prevent further violence between students and police. In Monday's student demonstration, called by the Dominican Federation of Students, students hurled rocks at police, who responded by launching teargas bombs.

GOVERNMENT UNCOVERS PLAN TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS

FL242124 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 21 Apr 86, pp 1, 13

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces and Interior and Police Secretariats said yesterday that state security organisms have discovered the existence of a plan intended to sabotage the country's electoral process which will culminate on 16 May. They said that to execute the plan, violent actions have been planned for Santo Domingo, Santiago, San Francisco de Macoris, Salcedo, Nagua, La Romana, and other areas. The secretariats said in a joint document that on 22, 23, 24, and 25 April, groups propose to increase their activities with a national transportation strike.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS -- Santo Domingo, 19 Apr (EFE) -- Dominican authorities are investigating a group of Colombians, Cubans, and Dominicans who were arrested as they waited for a shipment of approximately 6,320 kg of marijuana. The marijuana was found in a small British fishing boat that had left Rio Hacha, Colombia, on 12 April and was seized in Dominican waters off the Peravia coast in the country's southwest, on 16 April. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1502 GMT Apr 86 PA]

GUYANA

VENEZUELA OIL AGREEMENT EXPECTED TO END CRISIS

FL222100 Bridgetown CANA in English 2036 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Georgetown, April 22, CANA -- Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte said last [night, Monday] that his government's negotiation of oil supply agreements with Venezuela did not mean a reduction of its trading relations with Trinidad and Tobago, its traditional petroleum supplier. Hoyte also predicted an early halt to the country's severe two-month-old fuel crisis following the deal with Caracas which involves bartering Guyana bauxite products for Venezuelan oil products and financing mechanisms including credit and roll-over arrangements. All shortages would come to an end and the queues will disappear along with the several irritants engendered by the inadequate quantities of petroleum products within recent months, Hoyte told the nation in a radio broadcast.

Trinidad and Tobago halted oil credits to this country late last year after Guyana's debt reached about TT500 million dollars (one TT dollar 27.7 U.S. cents) and the Hoyte administration enforced fuel rationing in a bid to conserve extremely scarce foreign currency.

Hoyte said the Georgetown-Caracas agreement did not in any way reflect a lessening of our commitment to Caricom or to the expansion of Caricom trade.

On the contrary, I consider it important to stress that the arrangements we have made are not to be construed as a weakening of trading and economic relations with our sister Caricom state (Trinidad and Tobago) indeed, far from it.

Hoyte said the agreements had been carefully framed so as not to preclude us from importing petroleum products from our traditional source, Trinidad and Tobago.

And of course such imports will become possible as our own exports generate adequate export receipts, Hoyte added.

SURINAME

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES NONALIGNED MEETING

FL232022 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Suriname will, in the framework of the 25th anniversary of the Nonaligned Movement, organize a national and international seminar during which the principles of the movement will be illustrated. This, Mr Herrenberg of foreign affairs, said last Saturday during the ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi, India. In connection with the seminar, Herrenberg requested the assistance of the coordinating bureau.

During his speech at the ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement in New Delhi, Mr Herrenberg among others, pleaded for continuing efforts to the establishment of the international economic order. In this framework the minister also pleaded for long lasting solutions for the Third World's debt problem, according to Herrenberg, though continued flow of money from the South to the North, more sense of political reality, and a less stringent attitude of the international financial institutions are needed to get to grips with the debt problem.

Minister Herrenberg also informed the ministerial conference about the slight improvement in the relations between Suriname and the governments of the United States of North America and Holland. According to Herrenberg, this was made possible through the fact that these countries demonstrated a certain sense of reality. The minister also thanked the Movement for the solidarity they expressed toward Suriname at the Luanda conference. At this conference, the Movement pleaded for an open and honest dialogue with Suriname and condemned all interference in our internal affairs.

The Surinamese foreign minister also brought up the question of Commander Bouterse (?request) to the attention of those present. Herrenberg has especially concentrated on the smear campaign which part of the Dutch media practiced against our country.

The minister also repeated our government's standpoint with regard to the national and international drug prevention.

FBIS

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ECLA CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY ADJOURNS

Peru Suggests Debtors' Cartel

FL261650 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0107 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 25 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Peruvian Deputy Planning Minister Cesar Ferrari has asserted that adjustments to Latin American economies should end and called for the creation of a group of debtor countries because it will strengthen negotiation mechanisms and its position would be more solid. He said democracy in Latin America will succeed to the extent the region's economies develop; if not, the countries will be threatened by serious social problems. The official said it is important that the foreign financial commitments be paid according to the capabilities of each debtor country.

Special Meeting Proposed

PA270139 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] The ECLA meeting has ended in Mexico City. Before the end of 1986 an extraordinary meeting will be held to discuss the issue of the Latin American foreign debt. The following is a report by Claudio Guzman.

[Begin recording] The relations between the industrialized countries and the Latin American nations must change, otherwise the region's growth possibilities will continue to be precarious. This was established in the final resolution issued by the 21st ECLA conference and read during the closing session. The document states that instead of receiving financial support equal to 1 percent of the product of the industrialized world, in the past 5 years the underdeveloped countries have been subject to a merciless removal of funds.

During the last session of this ECLA conference, the Latin American, Caribbean, and European countries, as well as Canada, approved Mexico's proposal to hold an extraordinary ECLA meeting before the end of the year to analyze the issue of the foreign debt. U.S. delegate (Alan Cates) said that his country refrained from voting because his government does not have a budget to attend this type of conference. The attitude of the U.S. delegate was interpreted as a rejection of the proposal for a political dialogue suggested by Latin America.

Mexico's Salinas Reviews Meeting

PA270256 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpt] This evening, following the closing session of the ECLA conference, Mexican Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that the majority of the delegates are open to proposals that will help resolve the economic stagnation and recession. The solution to the problem lies in establishing a growth pattern and the countries of the region are doing their part responsibly. The countries are seeking to recover their production levels and create job sources while at the same time fulfilling their financial commitments abroad. Salinas de Gortari said that the countries that provided the loans must share in the search for a fair solution to the problem of the debt.

Following the closing session, Salinas de Gortari said that at this open forum many differences were expressed but a positive spirit prevailed. At the meeting Mexico proposed an extraordinary meeting to be held before the end of the year. This meeting will be aimed at resolving the economic and financial problems and the creditors will have to admit that their contribution will be necessary to overcome that crisis.

Salinas de Gortari said that Mexico is confronting its crisis by making budget cuts and carefully analyzing the areas in which these budget cuts can be made. The possibility of the country's future growth is not being hindered, Secretary Salinas de Gortari said. He added that the budget cuts are made without touching priority areas or the domestic demand for products made in the country. Therefore, this is a measure that responds to Mexico's financial needs.

NARCOTICS CONFERENCE BEGINS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil's Brossard To Preside

PY230143 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Paulo Brossard has been chosen as president of the inter-American conference on drug trafficking, which begin in Rio de Janeiro today. During the conference, scheduled to end Saturday, the Brazilian Government will submit to the OAS a proposal for the creation of an inter-American antidrug body, something that could direct multilateral cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. OAS Secretary General Baena Soares, who opened the conference, agreed with the idea, and said that such a body should have powers to coordinate the repression, prevention, and treatment of drug addiction. Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre also attended the opening session.

Nicaraguan Minister Speaks

PY240139 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Excerpt] During the inter-American conference on drug trafficking being held at the Copacabana Palace Hotel, Nicaraguan Justice Minister Rodrigo Reyes explained his country's position on the subject. He said the antidrug fight calls for strong and resolute action not only by the countries that produce drugs, but also by those where there is strong demand for drugs. Reyes added that he is convinced that Latin American countries, especially those where conditions are conducive to the production, sale, and consumption of drugs, must undertake joint action to eliminate drug trafficking and drug addiction.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CITED ON HABIB-SARNEY TALKS

PY260241 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2251 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Apr (EFE) -- Brazilian diplomatic sources today told EFE that the U.S. Administration could discontinue economic aid to the Nicaraguan contras if the Sandinist Government signs on 6 June the Contadora act. This information appeared 1 day after the visit of U.S. Special Ambassador Philip Habib to Brazil. Habib, Ronald Reagan's personal representative, yesterday met with President Jose Sarney in Brasilia on the next-to-last stop of his tour through "the Central America democratic countries" and the member countries of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups.

According to the Brazilian sources, the White House said that "if the Contadora Group achieves a broad peace agreement, which can be verified and enforced simultaneously, the U.S. Government will stop sending money to the anti-Sandinist guerrillas." Habib told Sarney that the clauses on simultaneous verification and enforcement are important for the success of the peace agreement for Central America.

Some of the sources questioned by EFE said that Habib insisted on the need to envisage all possibilities and not to leave for the future anything that would jeopardize the agreement. The U.S. Administration persists in its efforts to get congressional authorization for $100 million support for the contras.

The same sources also indicated that the U.S. ambassador told Sarney that once a peace agreement guaranteeing the stability of Central America is reached the contras will "automatically" cease to exist and "there will be no need for any money." Sarney today held a half-hour meeting with Habib. The agenda only scheduled a 15-minute meeting.

Sarney told the U.S. ambassador in a clear signal to the White House that the Brazilian Government has confirmed its support for the Contadora Group and for the diplomatic and political negotiation of the Latin Amercan crisis. He added that "the greatest virtue of peace is the virtue of patience." Habib told Sarney that Reagan supports the peace effort ever since the Contadora Group announced, in Panama early in April, an alternative peace plan. The Central American agreement must be signed on 6 June 1986 by all the Central American governments.

BRIEFS

RECORD TRADE SURPLUS -- According to the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department [CACEX], the Brazilian trade surplus during the first 3 months of 1986 has reached a record $2.578 million. According to CACEX, this positive surplus reflects the results of the government economic reform. [Text] Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Apr 86 PY]

UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN -- The National Front for the Defense of Children's Rights has issued statistics on [words indistinct]. There are more undernourished children now than 10 years ago. There were 13 million undernourished children 10 years ago. Now there are 36 million. [Text] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Apr 86 PY]

PINOCHET ON TEMUCO AGITATION, REAGAN'S LETTER

PY250217 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Relay by Eliana Henriquez from Temuco]

[Excerpts] Good evening. President Augusto Pinochet today said that the university agitation should be countered with measures at the national level and with greater control by the university rectors. Pinochet made this statement in Temuco during a conversation with the press just before ending his 3-day visit to the 9th Region. Pinochet added that it is difficult to distinguish between the strategy of the students and that of criminal agitators. He pointed out that over 80 professional agitators had come from Santiago to create disturbances during his stay in Temuco. Pinochet also stated that the letter sent to him by U.S. President Ronald Reagan is a document for rapprochement and cooperation with Chile -- a thoughtful letter. He said that yesterday he sent his reply to President Reagan. He reiterated what he said yesterday, that the 1980 Constitution will not be changed because it has not yet been fully applied.

PINOCHET VISITS VALPARAISO; VIOLENCE NOTED

PY251753 Paris AFP in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Valparaiso, 25 Apr (AFP) -- One student was wounded and at least four others were detained during violent disturbances that broke out today in Valparaiso, where President Pinochet, in the company of high-ranking officials of the military government, has started an official visit. The students were carrying out a demonstration at the Catholic University and at the Law College of the University of Valparaiso when they were repressed by the Carabineros. The incidents took place several blocks from where General Pinochet and his entourage were participating in a ceremony commemorating the 450th anniversary of Valparaiso, 140 km west of Santiago.

BRIEFS

NEW BILATERAL POLICY DIRECTOR -- The Foreign Ministry has announced that Jaime Herrera Cargill has been appointed bilateral policy director of the Foreign Ministry. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1963. Most recently Herrera Cargill served as cultural affairs and foreign information director. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Apr 86 p C 3 PY]

1ST QUARTER OIL PRODUCTION -- In the first quarter of this year ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] produced 507,000 cubic meters of crude oil, which is equivalent to 3 million barrels. ENAP is thus on target to extract 2 million cubic meters this year from its 360 on-shore and off-shore rigs in the Strait of Magellan. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p C 5 PY]

FRG PRESS ATTACHE, JOURNALISTS BEATEN, DETAINED

PY280217 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0043 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Asuncion, 27 Apr (EFE) -- An FRG diplomat accredited to General Alfredo Stroessner's government and a TV crew from the FRG state television were beaten and detained by the Paraguayan police today, although they were released a short time afterward. Two of the crew members are Argentine. The TV crew from Network One of German radio and television arrived here on 26 April from Buenos Aires and had their first problem with the police in front of the metropolitan cathedral, where this morning they covered a demonstration of striking doctors and auxiliary personnel, which the police dispersed with water cannons and tear gas. The demonstrators had just participated in a mass, which was celebrated by Msgr Jorge Livieres Banks, the secretary general of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference, asking for the release of four doctors who are union leaders and have been detained and accused of political crimes.

Afterward, the German TV crew sought help from Armin Steuer, the FRG press attache credited to Asuncion. Steuer accompanied them to the residence of opposition leader Domingo Laino to cover a political meeting. Laino has been living in exile in Argentina since 1982. Steuer charged that in front of Laino's residence, persons in civilian clothes carrying truncheons hidden inside newspapers circled them and began hitting them, despite his repeated cry that he was a foreign diplomat.

The diplomat, German TV correspondent Nicolas Brender, cameraman Peter Went and Eduardo Johnson, an assistant, were detained, together with Paraguayan journalist Jose Luis Simon, chief editor of EL PUEBLO, the newspaper of the Social Democratic Revolutionary Febrerista Party (PRF). Simon was not released.

Steuer stated that "I was thrown to the floor and hit on the back and head. They stole my watch and handcuffed me. They then dragged me to a paddy wagon. They also hit the television crew from my country. They all have multiple bruises, and the cameraman has some broken ribs." The German diplomat stated that a policeman slapped him while on police premises, where they had been taken, and that he was released, together with the journalists, after talking with Police Inspector Alberto Cantero, chief of the Political Section.

On 20 April police stopped Steuer from entering Asuncion's airport to cover, on orders of his government, the return from exile of Luis Alfonso Resck, a Christian Democratic leader. Resck's return to Paraguay took place due to the personal intervention of Helmut Kohl, the head of the FRG Government. Erich Riedler, minister councillor at the FRG Embassy in Asuncion, submitted a verbal protest to Pastor Coronel, chief of the Police Investigations Department, from whom he demanded the return of all the material that had been confiscated from the TV crew.

FRG Plans 'High-Level' Protest

LD280913 Hamburg DPA in German 0840 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Bonn, 28 Apr (DPA) -- The FRG "regrets" the behavior of the Paraguayan authorities toward the German television team, a spokesman for the Foreign Office stated today. Ambassador Conrad Gracher has been instructed "to protest at high level" to the Foreign Ministry in Asuncion. Gracher is also to press for an investigation of the incident.

U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES MAKE EMERGENCY LANDING

PY270033 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Chiclayo aeronautics authorities have reported that three U.S. Air Force airplanes are at an airport in the city of Chiclayo, 750 km north of Lima, where they had to make an emergency landing this morning. Two A-37 fighter planes encountered difficulties, forcing them to land as they were en route to Bolivia to participate in joint maneuvers with the Bolivian Army. The third aircraft, a C-3 maintenance airplane, landed in Chiclayo to assist the other two airplanes.

It was learned that these airplanes, which came from Panama, were authorized to land at an Air Force base in Pisco, 250 km south of Lima, to refill their tanks owing to the emergency, the nature of which was not stated. They asked permission to land in Chiclayo, where there also is a Peruvian Air Force Base. Sources in Chiclayo have stated that apparently the repair work will take several hours because the pilots went to a hotel.

The United Forces-86 maneuvers will be held in Cochabamba, central Bolivia, with the participation of U.S. aircraft, helicopters, and other U.S. forces, totaling 250. A total of 1,300 Bolivian Army troops will participate. The exercises will be held from 28 April to 6 May. Part of the maneuvers will be held in the Chapare area, where there are extensive clandestine coca plantations.

BOMB THREAT PROMPTS SEARCH OF EASTERN PLANE

PY251658 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1612 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 25 Apr (EFE) -- A false bomb threat was made today in a telephone call to the control tower at Lima airport. According to the phone caller, a bomb was placed on board an Eastern Airlines plane. This turned out not to be true. Security personnel of Jorge Chavez Airport conducted a thorough search of the plane, which had arrived from Asuncion, Paraguay, and did not find any explosives on board. Once it was ascertained that the threat was false, the Eastern plane which had landed in Lima only to refuel, continued its trip to Miami. Eastern has not served Lima for more than 2 years, because the flight agreement between Peru and the United States has not been renewed. Commercial Peruvian planes do not fly to the United States, either.

BRIEFS

U.S.-LICENSED AIRPLANE SEIZED -- Tingo Maria, 10 Apr -- A light aircraft with U.S. registration number 1M4126Z was seized by members of the Rural Areas Mobile Patrol Unit [Unided Motorizada de Patrullaje Rural - UMOPAR] at a clandestine airport in the town of Uchiza, on the banks of the Chontacayu River. Evidence that there had been basic cocaine paste in the plane was found. [Excerpt] [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Apr 86 p 19 PY]

NATION SEEKS TO MAINTAIN MARKET SHARE IN OPEC

PA262250 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Report by Marbella Molina]

[Text] At the next OPEC meeting Venezuela will state its need to keep its oil production level at 9.2 percent [of total OPEC production].

That is the position maintained by Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, minister of energy and mines, and the Venezuelan delegation that participated in the last OPEC conference which, according to Minister Hernandez Grisanti, initiated a new phase within the difficult and unstable international oil market. He categorically pointed out that although the decision to gradually increase the OPEC production levels from 16 billion barrels a day to 16.7 billion barrels is not the definitive solution to the problem we are facing, it is an option that should be consolidated and complemented at the next OPEC meeting in Yugoslavia on 25 July. At that meeting we should have an answer to the proposals that will be made by the ministers of Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Venezuela to the non-OPEC countries; that they reduce their oil consumption, which is as essential for the stability and recovery of the oil market as the economic behavior of the industrialized countries, and a fair distribution of individual production quotas.

[Begin Hernandez recording] An OPEC agreement has to favor Venezuela, and even more so because we now have the right to slightly increase our production by approximately 30,000 barrels in the third quarter, and a little bit more in the last quarter of the year. [end recording]

Despite all these considerations, according to Hernandez, it is not advisable to predict the level of prices which, if there is a recovery, will increase slowly and gradually and in agreement with market needs. According to a study of the supply and demand, these needs are expected to be higher in 1986 because the production of certain non-OPEC countries has already been shut down, which was one of the basic reasons for reaching the aforementioned decision.

[Begin Hernandez recording] We believe that Venezuela should at least maintain its current percentage of the total OPEC production, which was set at 16 million barrels. So if there is an increase, and if we consolidate this decision, that will be our position. I already stated it at the last meeting. Although the quotas were not being discussed, I indicated in advance what Venezuela's position will be in that regard. [end recording]

This is only the first step, the beginning of negotiations that seek to attain specific agreements with the non-OPEC oil producing countries, on which the future and the stability of the international oil market depends to a great extent.

'SIMON BOLIVAR' CLAIMS BOMB FOUND NEAR U.S. EMBASSY

PA270315 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The internationalist group Simon Bolivar has claimed responsibility for placing the explosive device in the car with Mexico City license plates which was parked in Danubio Street and Paseo do le Reforma, next to the Maria Isable Sheraton Hotel at the center of the capital. Mexican police arrived at the place where the car was and immediately began to unlock it. One of the Mexican agents found the explosive device in the car's trunk. The bomb had been wired to a battery. The police, through its special "task force," managed to deactivate the homemade bomb which was approximately 60 cm in diameter and had a gelatinous glue inside.

According to police reports, the time bomb, which weighed between 10 to 15 kg, had a damage range of 50 meters and a force of 6,500 km per second. The Mexican police immediately organized security units at the 50 diplomatic missions accredited in Mexico.

PORTUGUESE EMBASSY OCCUPATION ENDS PEACEFULLY

LD252241 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] The peaceful occupation of the Portuguese Embassy in Mexico City has ended. First Secretary Augusto Peixoto told the NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL news agency that it ended peacefully. After 16 hours the 4 young people who had initially demanded the release of Mexican political prisoners were driven to the university campus in 2 cars with diplomatic corps licence plates. The police did not intervene. The Greek and Danish Embassies had been occupied at the same time and in the latter the situation remains unchanged.

ABADIA DISCUSSES 26 APR MEETING WITH HABIB

PA262004 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Philip Habib, the U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, met this morning with President Eric Delvalle and Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia in the continuation of a tour that is taking him to the Contadora and Support Group countries, as well as to the Central American nations, in order to explain the position of the Reagan administration in regard to the Central American situation. Habib arrived at the Presidency accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis. The meeting was held at the Presidential Palace and lasted approximately 45 minutes.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, could you summarize what you discussed with the U.S. roving ambassador?

[Abadia] This morning the president met with Ambassador Habib, President Reagan's special envoy, who has been visiting the Contadora and Support Group countries. This meeting was very positive. They ratified, once more, on behalf of the United States, their decision to make the U.S. position regarding the Contadora peace efforts flexible. Ambassador Habib clearly and specifically told us that they believe in Contadora as the alternative for peace in Central America and that they are willing to support it. [end recording]

BOMB ON EASTERN PLANE PROVES FALSE ALARM

PA260108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0049 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The false alarm of a bomb aboard a U.S. Eastern Airlines plane bound for the United States caused panic among the passengers ready to board the plane at noon today. Sources at the Omar Torrijos International Airport told newsmen that the Eastern plane and the luggage were carefully examined when the authorities at the airport received an anonymous telephone call saying that an explosive charge had been placed in the aircraft.

The plane which was flying to New York, via Miami, was moved 2 km away from the airport to be searched by air security units and explosives experts. In another room of the airport the passengers' luggage was examined under strict security measures. After a 3-hour inspection of the plane and luggage, the Eastern plane left for Miami.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON ALLEGED CONSPIRACY

Abadia Says Charges Documented

PA271955 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 86 p 1A

[By Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia has said that he does not know what the government's position will be after learning of the "alleged" conspiracy hatched by members of the Panamanian opposition in conjunction with foreign allies against President Eric Arturo Delvalle's administration and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], "because I am not the government."

Abadia refused to give the names of the political leaders who are "supposedly" involved in a "conspiracy" to keep the Canal zone from being turned over to Panama on the year 2000 and admitted that President Delvalle "has more details" about this "destabilization" plan. The foreign minister said that "we do have a great deal of information to give to the media in order for them to relay it to Panamanians." Abadia said that "we are not going to engage in polemics with anybody," adding that "truth is not subject to polemics."

The foreign minister said that President Delvalle has the names and details of the mechanics of the "alleged" plan, which was aimed at "discrediting" the national government and the FDP at the international level. When asked what he thought would be the consequences of the charge raised by the government, Abadia answered: "More than just what I think, I wish to state what my hopes are. I hope that the truth will bring calm and peace of mind to the Panamanian people; that the truth will actually place us on the path to progress and development."

The official stressed that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that these documents "are not suppositions, that they exist." Asked why this charge was issued by the foreign minister and not the justice and government minister, as established by law, Abadia said: "I think that since the evidence presented last night [as published] consists of official foreign documents, the appropriate channel for the country to learn about these things was the Foreign Ministry."

PDC, Msgr McGrath Respond

PA260221 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0101 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] denounced "the regime's deep division" in this country where "civilians do not rule." "In no democracy does the military dictate internal and foreign policies to the executive. In no professional armed institution do the lieutenants act as a political pressure group before their chiefs," the PDC noted.

A communique issued by the opposition party commented on the ceremony in which Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia, and Defense Forces Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega participated last night. Noriega disclosed the existence of a "national and international" plot to keep Panama from running Panama Canal, as agreed in the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Likewise, Delvalle characterized as "bad Panamanians" those who "feed the climate of unrest." The ceremony which was held last night was to close the 15th Training Seminar for lieutenants of Panama's Defense Forces.

PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon, who signed the communique issued today, labeled last night's event as a "regrettable show" to which "no serious government" would be party. "The repeated charges of a plot no longer impress anyone. They are nothing but a desperate and useless attempt to silence criticism from national and international sources aimed at exposing the regime for drug trafficking and its undemocratic nature," Arias Calderon said.

"Everybody knows that Panamanian authorities want to remain in power at any price; however, no one knows if they are going to take a leftist and anti-American course, or a rightist, pro-American course," Arias Calderon said, summarizing the country's current state of confusion.

"Only a great change toward democracy will offer Panamanians a road to salvation," the PDC leader said. He noted that he was prepared to "openly talk to the instructors at that seminar for lieutenants," who inspired that statement, "so that each everyone's views on democratization, military professionalism, and the nationalist fate of our canal be made perfectly clear."

Panama's Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath said today that "if those accusations are true, then the names become very important," because otherwise "a very broad accusation remains in the air." The statement by the top military leader and the Cabinet "brings up a shadow of suspicion that is not helpful at this point, when one is trying to overcome divisions," the prelate told the press.

Authentic Liberal Leader Reacts

PA261741 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Apr 86 p 1a

[Article by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Excerpts] Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panama Christian Democratic Party, has described as a "regrettable show" the charge of an antigovernment and antinationalist plot prepared by the opposition. This show was put on by the Presidency of the Republic jointly with the Defense Forces Command on televison.

Arnulfo Escalona Rios, the controversial lawyer and president of the Authentic Liberal Party (now being formed) commented on an alleged plot against the state which a group of officers of the country's Defense Forces reported to President Eric Arturo Devalle. Escalona Rios said that it was a "deplorable, baseless, and ridiculous show carried on television the night before last." According to Escalona Rios, this alleged charge has all the signs of the farce used in the case of Manfred Hoffman, a witness presented by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera as the person who knew all the details of the crime committed against Dr Hugo Spadafora Franco, the guerrilla-doctor.

To Escalona Rios, the show, aired on a television network, was deplorable, and he feels that President Delvalle and his ministers lost stature and respect. Asked if he thinks that the alleged plot is just a veiled threat of political repression and exile, he replied: "We can expect anything... they have done it once and can do it again...."

He reiterated that he has reported the lack of a de jure system not only at the assembly, but in public squares. "What we are seeking is the restoration of the de jure system. Panama does not have a de jure system, and for this reason we can expect anything..." he added. Asked what message he would sent to his compatriots, the political leader stressed that there is no other alternative than "to continue the struggle because we still have faith in the Republic." To Escalona, the bad Panamanians who stole from the country 18 years ago will be detected sooner or later by the people and will not be able to continue hiding from the people's justice.

Moved by the current situation in the country, he confessed that he grieves for the Republic, recalling the saying of a patriot describing Panama as a country run by merchants.

PRD Leader on 'Sedition'

PA261835 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Apr 86 p 1 A

[Article by Flor Quintero]

[Text] Commenting on the declaration of the Defense Forces lieutenants, Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, told LA PRENSA: "We are very pleased that within the Defense Force the sectors which encompass the lieutenants have made a very firm statement to face the sedition. They will have the full support of the PRD."

Questioned about the unknown list of the conspirators, Escobar said: "I do not know names at this moment, but since the time I mentioned those plots I have been mentioning constantly names such as Eisenmann, Ricardo Arias Calderon, among the ones I recall now, and they are the persons who are constantly making "lobbys" [preceding word in English] in the United States and conspiracies in Panama, with the purpose of obtaining, through the international pressure of ultra-rightist sectors, what they cannot obtain with the Panamanian people's support."

In a vigorous communique to the nation, the PRD has stated that it is in a permanent state of alert in view of what it calls "the conspiracy and sedition" of local political groups in complicity with foreign elements, reported on 24 April by the Defense Forces lieutenants, who confirmed that the purpose of the plot was to prevent Panama from recovering the Canal in the year 2000. At the same time, the PRD urged all its members to carry out constant mobilizations throughout the country to "give the deserved answer to those who plot against our fatherland."

The communique states: "The political activity carried out by a group of Panamanians, who lack political support, has the purpose of securing the solidary of ultrareactionary groups in the United States, as a means of exerting pressure on the Republic and destabilizing our democratic institutions." "This responds to a preconceived plan which also intends to create the necessary political situation in the country."

PAPO Sees 'Frazzled Comedy'

PA272025 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 86 p 2 A

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] The so-called "Declaration of the Lieutenants" has been described by the People's Action Party (PAPO) as a "frazzled comedy presented by the military high command and its civilian androids." In a communique delivered to LA PRENSA's editorial room yesterday, PAPO characterized the event held on Thursday evening as a "desperate attempt by the regime to resume "nationalistic banners" to justify the elimination from the political scenario of individuals and groups who hold unmistakable ideas about true change." According to PAPO, those who directly or indirectly support the Panamanian state's leadership echelons identify with expansionist and warmongering policies because the "raison d'etre of militarism in Panama is to ensure our dependency on foreign power centers."

The opposition party adds that "the Torrijist nationalism" that was born in 1969 after Torrijos met with Rockefeller and the "Goldman Sachs," explains with perfect clarity the "dualism of the regime of the garrisons: while [Torrijos] visited the world with an anticolonialist face, he relinquished our country to the major transnational interests and mortgaged Panama to the international private banks, leaving Panamanians with the highest per capita foreign debt in the world." PAPO adds that through the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the military regime both legalized the U.S. occupation and "turned us into vulnerable targets of any aggression against U.S. strategic targets, which situation has been worsened by the current escalation of indiscriminate violence at the world level."

According to PAPO, the degree of "corruption and disrepute" of the military regime at the domestic and international levels has reached unbearable limits and, realizing this, the military leadership has rushed to revive already worn-out, and discredited banners in its mad desire to cling to power. "We will only find the solution to our crisis in Panama and, therefore, we reject the pilgrimage of Panamanian citizens to Washington and other capital cities as a way out of our anguish," the opposition party stressed. PAPO reiterated its call for the creation of a civilian-minded nationalistic and popular movement as the only truly democratic option to overcome Panama's current plight "to lead us to truly moral and institutional reconstruction of our republic, in which our people may seal their destiny without middlemen and impositions; for a Panama for Panamanians."

BRIEFS

MALARIA REPORTED -- National Health Director Dr Alfredo Molto is asking the people to support the SNEM [National Society for the Eradication of Malaria] teams in their effort to control malaria. So far this year 440 cases of this disease have been detected in Panama. The latest cases registered last week were in Palenque and Costa Arriba in Colon Province, and are believed to be the result of the immigration that takes place between Darien Province and Colombia. [Summary] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 22 Apr 86 p 1 PA]

COSTA RICA

PROTEST SENT TO NICARAGUA ON 20 APRIL 'AGGRESSION'

PA261242 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Costa Rica fully understands that the aggression carried out by the EPS against a Civil Guard partol on 20 April is within the framework of Nicaraguan efforts to increase tension in the region, something which it has traditionally done when progress for peace in Central America seems possible. This was stated by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in a protest note sent to the Sandinist regime in Managua today in response to the armed attack [word indistinct] in [name indistinct] on Sunday. Gutierrez is asking for an explanation of this new violation of our national sovereignty.

Noting that we have witnessed the same actions too many times to be deceived, Gutierrez said that he does not share the view of the Managua regime that effective solutions for Central American problems can be found through bilateral negotiations. This is not possible, the protest note added, because the Nicaraguan Government has bound itself to making us see the absence of these solutions and increasingly convincing us that the problems of the area can be solved only multilaterally or minicomprehensive and global. [sentence as heard]

AUTHORITIES EXPEL 'POPO' CHAMORRO TO U.S.

PA252204 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Commander Adolfo "Popo" Chamorro was expelled from our country today at 0800 and put aboard an Eastern Airlines flight to Miami. The guerrilla was expelled because an order banning his entry into national territory, which resulted from his counterrevolutionary activities, was issued 2 years ago. National authorities have not been able to confirm another charge that he is involved in drug trafficking.

The anti-Sandinist commander was captured several days ago at an airport while preparing to participate in a meeting of counterrevolutionaries to smooth things over among the rebels. Apparently Chamorro landed on an air strip belonging to Liberation Party Deputy Victor Julio Jurado del Barco, who reported this to the Civil Guard.

The Civil Guard detained the anti-Sandinist but released the pilot and copilot of the plan. The detained revolutionary said his stay in the country was only temporary, that perhaps the president of the Republic would grant him a permit to carry out political activities against the Managua regime. Since the permit was denied, security authorities decided to expel him from the country.

MONGE: NEUTRALITY BILL REJECTION 'MISTAKE'

PA261358 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Excerpts] President Luis Alberto Monge has termed a historic mistake the fact that the neutrality bill was not made into a law.

Although he said he respects the opinions of others, he explained that this historic mistake was not made by the Costa Rican people, because polls showed that they supported the bill. However, Monge explained that he is not upset that the bill did not pass, because the November 1983 proclamation bore national and international legal consequences.

He noted that the people should be consulted on a bill that is of much interest to the country. This could be done through a plebiscite or a referendum to avoid historic mistakes such as that made with the neutrality bill. In this way it would be up to the people to decide, without any political pressure, on the advisability of a bill, he said.

SECURITY MEASURES FOR INAUGURATION ANNOUNCED

PA261445 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Apr 86 p A

[Text] Security measures are being increased for the 8 May inauguration events.

Security Council sources reported to LA REPUBLICA that these measures basically are:

1. Strict control of the entry of foreigners beginning today and until 9 May.

2. Coordination on the granting of visas between the Public Security Ministry and the Foreign Ministry.

3. Control of activities of a group of Costa Ricans who spent time in Libya receiving training by the Al-Qadhdhafi government.

4. Increased vigilance in hotels and public places during the days prior to the inauguration.

5. Special security measures at the National Theater, the site of the inauguration ceremony, on 6, 7, and 8 May.

6. On the occasion of the visit of more than 10 presidents, greater control at the places where they will carry out their activities.

7. Reinforcement of control measures at Juan Santamaria Airport.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE ON LABOR PROBLEMS, CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

PA260006 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] President Duarte has said that the guerrillas and union movements which have been infiltrated by extremists are instruments of a violent revolutionary process.

Duarte has also accused the transportation leaders of increasing the bus fares at whim. He made this claim during an impromptu news conference upon leaving a meeting with members of the FUSAL [not further identified].

[Begin Duarte recording] I believe these gentlemen of the buses have acted rashly; it is not just social rebellions that are being provoked to create unnecessary crises. Thus, they are making a mistake; the government will not accept this type of undisciplined action. They must undersand that if the country is to produce, according to the plan we were discussing a few minutes ago, we must have social discipline. We must all understand that everything has its time and place, but we cannot carry out hasty actions that affect the people. They cannot carry out actions which imply disobedience or abuse. [end recording]

The head of state also referred to the 4-hour strike declared by the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers, UNTS.

[Begin recording] [Duarte] I think that you have only to walk through the city and you will find that it is the natural result of Fenastras' [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] and the leftist sector's attitude. [sentence as heard] They have ordered a return to the strategy adopted in 1979. Do you remember when they said that the Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] was different from the guerrilla sectors? It was all part of a campaign to make the people believe that the BPR wanted to defend their rights, and the guerrillas were a totally different and separate matter.

However, the truth is that they are both instruments within a violent revolutionary process. Both produce destabilization and the elements to lure the most radical people, who then become members of the guerrilla sector. Consequently, this is part of a plan which has been outlined by them, and it obviously combines their strategy with the normal dissatisfactions which we always have, plus the labor problems which always exist in a company. The sum of all this is what they always plan for and exploit to the maximum. Consequently, they are useful fools, people who are struggling for their rights, and persons who intentionally infiltrate the sector to obtain benefits for the FMLN, guerrilla groups and terrorism.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, could you....[changes thought] What is happening concerning the case of the kidnappings?

[Duarte] Well, we are working on this. I think you have already ascertained that the first two persons have been taken to court. The investigation continues, and the National Police have to release information as it is discovered. I want to tell the people that the government has the political will to investigate this; the Police and Armed Forces are exerting themselves to the utmost. However, I am concerned because indescribable expectations might be provoked; this could frustrate the people, and that is dangerous. They should be realistic and remember that we are investigating and will continue to investigate. I am also investigating -- through the security forces -- many other things, such as drug problems, crimes perpetrated with indescribable violence, abuse of authority, and -- of course -- the kidnappings.

Consequently, the security corps and the Armed Forces are working conscientiously and truly proving their democratic spirit. [end recording]

CLAIM ON FONSECA GULF ISLANDS REASSERTED

PA260135 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] The islands of Meanguera and Meanguerita belong to El Salvador, according to the director of borders. The islands of Meanguera and Meanguerita, which are located close to the entrance of the Gulf of Fonseca, belong to El Salvador; consequently, they are part of the republic's insular territory, it was stated by Dr Abel Salazar Rodezno, director general of borders at the Foreign Ministry.

Dr Salazar Rodezno's statement was issued to counter what was stated by lawyer Pedro Pineda Madrid, member of the commission drafting the case that will be presented to the International Court of Justice in The Hague to settle our border dispute. Pineda Madrid told the Honduran news media that the island of Meanguera belongs to Honduras and that he has the necessary documents to support his claim concerning the possession of the territory being disputed with our country.

The director of borders deplored the fact that Honduras continues to manipulate public opinion in such a way that the border dispute will provoke an estrangement that should not exist between peoples who are intimately linked by historical and -- to a certain extent -- family ties.

CASTILLO SAYS NICARAGUAN PROCESS 'CRUMBLING'

PA270321 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Apr (EFE) -- Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Clarmount has said that the "Nicaraguan process has been crumbling," and its "political, financial, and military alignment with the USSR is practically irreversible." During an interview in San Salvador with Regino Diaz Redondo, director general of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, published in today's edition, Castillo Claramount said that the Contadora document for peace in Central America must be signed, even if Nicaragua refuses to do so. According to Castillo, this peace document is probably the most complete document ever drafted in the history of the world in an attempt to create conditions of stability and security in a region threatened by war.

"I would say that it is a sort of monument to Latin American political intelligence and truly creates and establishes, with incredible detail, all the necessary mechanisms and situations that could occur," Castillo, who is also the foreign minister, said.

The vice president also said that El Salvador can coexist with any government, despite its ideology, "so long as it respects us and refrains from carrying out actions against other states."

The vice president believes that the Contadora Group is the best forum for dialogue and negotiation, and it is not, nor has it ever been a court to condemn or rule on attitude of others. Castillo also said that Mexico's role within the group, its efforts and commitments, show that this country is really trying to create security in the Central American area, not only in Nicaragua "as some wicked minds have hinted. This is not good for a country that is only trying to fulfill its mission."

In conclusion, Castillo said that President Jose Napoleon Duarte's government is willing, "at any time," to resume its talks with the Salvadoran guerrillas, and "the church is aware of this."

VENCEREMOS SAYS ARMY DIVIDED OVER INVESTIGATIONS

PA251537 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Text] The case of Estaben and Zacapa, the kidnappers, has become complicated. The case of the kidnappers' band, headed -- as far as we know -- by Colonels Mauricio Estaben and Joaquin Zacapa, has generated a tense and critical situation within the Army. According to our intelligence reports, Col Mauricio Estaben's relatives and friends think he fell into a trap set by the Duartists. Nevertheless, they say that Estaben is not alone; there are many military officers who support him. Therefore, it can be surmised that a fierce confrontation is currently taking place within the Army.

Our reports indicate that Estaben's case is only the beginning; other top-ranking military commanders are named as being involved in the matter. This includes Colonels Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of General Staff operations; Colonel Roberto Rodriquez Murcia, commander of the Cavalry Regiment; and Colonel Orlando Zepeda, chief of the General Staff's Intelligence and Information Department. The reports reveal that the military officers, who are Estaben's allies, are furious because the information about their arrest was released to the news media. These military officers have promised to take reprisals for what they consider a dirty Duartist trick.

Certain colonels, who are Estaben's allies, say they will boycott Duarte's return to the country after his trip to South America. Although this hypothetical measure is nothing but a boast, it reflects the overall uneasiness which prevails in the barracks. Our reports say that Estaben's allies are astonished, because they have ascertained that the U.S. Embassy is behind the maneuver which ousted the commander of the elite Arce Battalion. This further increased the unease felt by the officers, prompting many colonels to express contempt for the aid received from the United States. They have said they could manage without the Americans.

In political and diplomatic circles it is believed that now that the matter has been exposed it will be very difficult to contain the investigations and that these will implicate people like Colonel Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, deputy security minister; that is, the chief of the repressive forces.

Estaben's family and other sources have revealed that Roberto D'Aubuisson [leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance Party, linked to the death squads] was summoned to the U.S. Embassy, where he was advised of the situation. During that meeting D'Aubuisson handed over a list of military men with links to the death squads. He warned, however, that if he is arrested he will personally expose the scandal.

Our intelligence reports conclude that there are more than two conflicting factions within the Army. As a result, men including Cols Moran, Adalberto Cruz, Ochoa Perez, and Estaben have been pushed aside. In the case of Estaben and Zacapa, they have been virtually dismissed.

The U.S. Department of State, through its embassy in San Salvador, fully supports Duarte and the military who support him. Therefore, one of the conflicting parties has the support of the U.S. Department of State.

Another of the conflicting parties is the group of officers who are on the CIA payroll. This group includes Rene Emilio Ponce, Mauricio Estaben, Orlando Zepeda, and others. These are the most important groups. Another group includes the Salvadoran Army men considered the most loyal to the Pentagon, which is represented by the U.S. advisers. This group of U.S. pawns includes Cols Mendez, Vargas, Blandon, and others. There are other, less important groups.

There are really four power nuclei that depend on the U.S. Government: the U.S. Embassy, the CIA, the U.S. advisers, and AID, which represent the Department of State, the CIA, the Pentagon, and the Department of the Treasury respectively. Each of these power nuclei share a common goal but have individual plans. The chiefs of those offices have political ambitions, career aspirations. Therefore, the prevailing climate between these offices is one of competition and rug-pulling. This explains why the U.S. Embassy, which represents the interests of the Department of State, is behind the trick that has placed Mauricio Estaben in jail. The U.S. Embassy miscalculated. It most probably sought to improve Duarte's image abroad prior to his upcoming South American tour. They attempted to improve Duarte's image by throwing into jail a third-class bourgeois -- Orlando Yodora -- and a petty lieutenant who was pushed aside years ago -- Isidro Lopez Irian.

However, the threat led farther. After they felt lost they implicated Estaben, Zacapa, Rodriguez Murica, and others. Estaben has undoubtedly named other high military officers, and that is why he has not been brought before the press. However, this problem which the Army has gotten into is barely beginning. Estaben is telling all he knows. Estaben's supporters, who feel betrayed, will take reprisals against the officers who support Duarte. One will also have to wait to see what Roberto D'Abuisson will say and do. He is up to his ears in the death squad business.

This move, designed to improve the Duarte administration's image, is putting the rampant corruption in the Army on display and prying open what could become the greatest crisis that has ever affected the puppet Army.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS DAMAGE TO 2 HELICOPTERS

PA261222 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The black winter for the Air Force pilots has begun; the FMLN has damaged two helicopters in San Vicente. In the past few days a squadron of Air Force helicopters carried out terrorist actions against civilians in several villages in the paracentral and eastern areas of the country. They caused casualties among the residents and destroyed their homes.

A report dated Thursday, 24 April, points to a different situation for the pilots of the Duarte Air Force. A military report dated Thursday, 24 April, states that on Thursday morning, while the Duarte Air Force was carrying out its genocidal actions in the San Ildefenso area, San Vicente Department, a FMLN guerrilla unit opened fire on a helicopter equipped with rockets, damaging it seriously and killing its pilot. Later the fire of our weapons concentrated on another helicopter, a Hughes-500, better known as the dumb fly. We hit that helicopter and damaged it; we also wounded its pilot. We repeat, two helicopters were damaged by our revolutionary fire in the San Ildefonso area, San Vicente Department. As a result, a Duarte Air Force pilot was killed and another wounded. We are awaiting an official war bulletin from the Anastacio Aquino Paracental Front with more details on the murder of a war criminal and the condition of another pilot seriously wounded by our revolutionary weapons.

At the beginning of the year we said we would improve our antiaerial combat tactics, and we are doing just that. This is a bad winter for the Duarte Air Force. Each criminal war pilot bears a cross of ash on his forehead. Our people will search for them on the ground and in the air to annihilate them. The genocidal colonels and generals are also the targets of our people. We will win!

GUATEMALA

CEREZO: ECONOMIC PLAN SEEKS MORE JUST SYSTEM

PA251517 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Today President Vinicio Cerezo said that the social and economic reorganization plan proposed to the nation is an incentive to the creativity and skills of Guatemalans, because it contributes to creating the legal mechanisms that will allow a better distribution of the benefits achieved during the recovery stage of the country.

The president added that the most needy classes require more opportunities for their development, and this will be possible through the unification of efforts that seek the common welfare of all Guatemalans. We cannot afford to continue maintaining a system that allows only a small sector to get rich at other people's expense; we should establish a more just, equitable, and humane system, particularly regarding the sale of food, Cerezo said.

In addition, the president said that economic offenses are a reality and should not be allowed. There are main staples that are sold at very high prices, and the profits from these operations are beyond the logical and allowed margin. If a sector again seeks to get richer by harming the interests of the majority, then the government will seek the legal mechanisms to prevent this injustice and favor those whose rights are violated.

Finally, the president said that the time has come to unify efforts to make Guatemala prosper. To imagine or believe that the problems affect only the productive system is selfish, because the problems we inherited on 14 January are problems that affect the whold country. The answers that come along must not protect only the interests of a few to the detriment of others, but we should act with justice so that development and well-being reach all sectors, with no discrimination at all.

QUINONEZ ON U.S. CONTRA AID, CONTADORA PROSPECTS

PA252315 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1915 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita said today that "the decision of the United States to withdraw every type of aid from the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is positive." This statement practically breaks "the active neutrality" in the Central American conflict announced by President Vinicio Cerezo's government. A few weeks ago Quinonez mentioned the $100 million in aid to the anti-Sandinist contras which U.S. President Ronald Reagan has requested of the U.S. Congress. At that time Quinonez Amezquita said that this "is a problem between the United States and Nicaragua." However, in today's statements Quinonez said that "the decision of the United States to withdraw every type of aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries if the Nicaraguan authorities sign the Contadora peace document is positive."

Quinonez added that the Central Amercian countries have already expressed their opinion regarding the signing of the peace document as proposed by the Contadora Group and added that "Costa Rica's attitude is worthy of praise." The foreign minister said that in a telegram received yesterday the Costa Rican Government stated that "it will sign the peace document, even if the other countries of the isthmus do not."

Quinonez said: "The presence of 11 presidents at the inauguration of Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez could be used to discuss matters related to the peacemaking process in the Central American area."

Guatemala has already informed Panama of its decision to sign the document for peace and cooperation proposed by the Contadora Group, formed by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS ENTRY OF LIBYANS, OTHERS

PA251550 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Vedeo in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] The Honduran Government has banned the entrance of citizens from Arab and socialist countries due to the U.S.-Libyan confrontation. Immigrations Police Director Colonel Miguel Flores said that the measure has been adopted as a gesture of friendship toward the United States. He added: There is no fear of Honduras' becoming a target of terrorist attacks; nonethless, we must take preventive measures due to our friendship and solidarity with the United States.

There are more than 2,500 U.S. soldiers in Honduras. In addition, there are installations, airports, communications centers, and hospitals which have been built by the United States, he said. Here is a report by journalist Nery Arteaga on an exclusive statement by Immigrations Police Director Miguel Flores:

[Begin recording] [Arteaga] Concerned over threats by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Honduran Government has restricted the entrance of any citizens arriving from Libya, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and communist countries. Col Miguel Flores Auceda has said that the Libyan threats have compelled the government to cancel all immigration requests. He added that a security operation has been mounted around the citizens of those countries who reside in Honduras. There are now 235 Jordanian citizens living in Honduras. Most of the Turks or Arabs, as they are commonly known, currently reside in San Pedro Sula, where they have established their businesses.

Here is Col Miguel Flores Auceda's statment regarding this matter:

[Flores Auceda, in progress] ...however, as a precautionary measure, and considering that we are U.S. allies and friends and that Al-Qadhdhafi's plans are to cause problems in Western nations, as of days ago we have restricted the entrance of citizens from Libya and its ally countries. Citizens from those countries must request authorization from the respective consuls before they can enter the country, and these requests are handled through the Foreign Secretariat. The Immigrations Department then issues the final authorization. We have suspended all authorizations, and all the requests received through the Foreign Secretariat have been denied.

Jordanians, Libyans, Egyptians, Saudi Arabians, and citizens from the GDR, Syria, and other communist parties who cannot freely enter the country and who must obtain a cable authorization from the Foreign Secretariat before they can enter the country. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

REGALADO ON BORDER SITUATION, PRESS RELATIONS

PA250747 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1621 GMT 24 Apr 86

[Interview with Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez by reporters Edgar Amado Lopez and Jorge Alberto Diaz Castillo in Tegucigalpa on 24 April -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Lopez] General, what is your opinion of the presidents' meeting which will take place in Esquipulas, Guatemala?

[Regalado] I think it is very good, it is a very important meeting. The presidents of Central America will have important things to talk about.

[Lopez] What about an open-door and cordial policy toward the news media, since there seems to be an estrangement on your part as commander of the Armed Forces, with the news media, especially with newsmen?

[Regalado] That is not so. I am interested in maintaining direct contact with the news media, because I prefer to give the facts intstead of allowing rumors to spread.

[Lopez] General Lopez Reyes was always in contact with the workers and peasants. Have you maintained those contacts?

[Regalado] General Lopez Reyes was one commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and now I am the commander in chief, and the policy he was carrying out was his policy, it was the policy of the institution. He left, I took over, and the Armed Forces' policy remains the same.

[Diaz] General, What do you know about Major Mitchell, a U.S. citizen, and the case of El Hatillo?

[Regalado] I cannot say anything about this, because any information released must have official approval from the security corps.

[Lopez] General, do you share the opinion of President Azcona who said that it is very difficult to guard the Honduran-Nicaraguan border?

[Regalado] Yes, I do. One need only add the length in kilometers of our border with Nicaragua. As he has said very well, 10 battalions would not be sufficient. As a military man I can tell you that we would probably need 15 or more battalions.

[Diaz] General, there are reports that you do not like to talk about the counterrevolution; however, I am forced to bring up this important subject. A U.S. television network reported that whenever the Sandinists were going to carry out an incursion into Honduran territory they would hold talks with the Honduran Armed Forces. The network even said that Honduran and high-ranking EPS personnel held a dialogue the same day that U.S. Vice President Bush was here to attend Azcona's inauguration. Can you explain this to the Honduran people?

[Regalado] The only explanation is that the report is absolutely false. You should believe in reports released by the Honduran authorities, who have the responsibility to tell the truth to the Honduran news media, not people outside the country who want to talk or are getting paid to talk. The international news media misconstrue official Honduran statements. You have been able to verify this.

[Lopez] The men who killed U.S. priest...

[Regalado, interrupting] That is the job of the police and the Public Security Force, FUSEP, which are doing their best to clear these two crimes.

[Lopez] General Regalado, is it true that there are no more Sandinists in our territory? The Sandinists who violated our sovereignty, have they been expelled from our country?

[Regalado] During the operation we were very thorough, and we informed the Honduran people by television about the operation we carried out. The president of the Republic has stated very well and honestly the situation of the counterrevolutionaries who come and go in our country.

[Lopez] You definitely agree with Preesident Azcona's view that the Honduran Army could not be sent to the border to protect of the Sandinist regime's back?

[Regalado] Definitely, yes. If you add the kilometers of our border with Nicaragua, we would need not just 10 battalions, as the president said, but 15 or more battalions. We do not have the economic capacity for this. The country's economy is insufficient to double the capacity of the Armed Forces, just to protect the Sandinist regime's back.

Threats to Security Noted

PA252004 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpts] General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, has made a statement for journalists of various media sources in his usual, cordial manner. The vigilance at the border, Libya's threats against U.S. targets, and the problem of missing people were the most relevant topics discussed. Jose Maria Calix reports:

[Begin recording] [Calix] Asked about the Armed Forces' capability to face any foreign threat, Gen Regalado Hernandez said that, together with military preparedness, there is also the conviction that the internal sector should be strengthened.

[Regalado] I believe this is a very important aspect. The Armed Forces' policy is definitely established along these lines. We have expressed our concern to the U.S. Government on the need to strengthen our country's economy, in order to strengthen our [words indistinct] internal front. We are convinced that if the people have jobs, and the peasants have land, we will have a safe front and a stable government. As a second priority, we have established the need for military aid, but not to the extent that some people believe.

[Calix] Gen Regalado also commented on the measures...[changes thought on the threats against U.S. intallations in our country.

[Regalado] Well, we have issued specific instructions for all the security structures, since, as I have said before, this fanaticism is quite worrisome. You know what a fanatic can do, and this worries us.

[Calix] Gen Regalado also referred to the problem of missing people.

[Regalado] Well, it is hard to say, because some people are reported missing in Honduras, and immediately the commission of missing people files a complaint. However, when it becomes known that those people are receiving training in Nicaragua and Cuba, the commission is too embarrassed to say that these people are no longer missing. [end recording]

UNHCR DENIES SALVADORAN REFUGEE CAMP ATTACKED

PA262231 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Apr 86 p 14

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- An official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] yesterday denied that there had been a new military incursion by the Honduran Army in the Salvadoran refugee camp in Colomoncagua.

International dispatches disseminated yesterday reported that FMLN rebels were charging that the refugee camp had again been attacked by the Honduran Army.

Honduran military forces entered that camp of 8,700 Salvadoran refugees in Intibuca on 29 August, killing 3 people, wounding approximately 50, and capturing 10 who were subsequently accused of being guerrillas.

Waldo Luis Villalpando, the UNHCR representative in Honduras, told TIEMPO in an interview that the situation at the Colomoncagua camp is stable. "There have been no problems in Colomoncagua. Our people of UNHCR live in the camps and have not reported anything," the diplomat noted.

He stressed that he has daily communications with the refugee camps and he has not received any report on alleged problems in any of those settlements.

NICARAGUA

FDN CLAIMS EPS TO INVADE HONDURAS, COSTA RICA

PA260004 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 25 Apr 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The rebel FDN reported today in Tegucigalpa that the EPS plans to invade Honduras and Costa Rica. An FDN spokesman told ACAN-EFE that "our intelligence sources have found out that 20,000 men will participate in the invasion of each of these countries."

The source, who asked not to be identified, added that "our intelligence has confirmed this report from various sources in Managua and other Nicaraguan towns." The same source added that "the political chief of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN), in San Juan de Rio Coco, Madriz Department, has revealed this on several occasions."

"We know that the Sandinists would try to invade Honduras through places where their tanks and artillery can move, supporting the troops with Mi-24 helicopters and keeping in reserve jet fighters which have arrived in Managua from socialist countries," the FDN spokesman said. He also said that as an exercise and to test the Honduran Army response capacity, "the Sandinists sent two battalions during Holy Week into Honduran territory, where they sustained an unexpected military defeat."

He also said that the Sandinists know that the Honduran Air Force is intact and very professional. For this reason, old plans to occupy the Honduran territory are currently being very carefully revised.

As for the alleged invasion of Costa Rica, the spokesman said the Sandinists think that "occupying this country could prove to be a military stroll for their troops, because Costa Rica lacks a formal army and its Civilian Police are ill-armed." The source added that attempts will be made to involve U.S. troops in the country for joint exercises in the Sandinists' plans to invade Honduras.

The spokesman also said: "All of this which our intelligence service has gathered has been sent to the Costa Rican and Honduran authorities. If they do not take preventive measures, they will be surprised."

He said that the Sandinists are only awaiting the U.S. Congress' decision on President Ronald Reagan's $100-million request for the counterrevolutionaries. "If this request is approved, they will march on Honduras and Costa Rica," he said.

Finally, he said that on 21 April the La Terrera Garrison barracks, 1 km from Jinotega, where the Esteban Reyes military training school once operated, was attacked and destroyed. In addition, the antenna of Radio Pankasan was destroyed, while 20 of the defenders were killed and 11 wounded.

FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO VISITS GREECE

For Athens radio accounts of the vist to Greece by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, including his talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreau, see the Greece Section of the 25 April Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL

FL251310 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1101 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] President of the Councils of State and Ministers Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has received Mr (Kenneth Dasie), secretary general of UNCTAD. The distinguished visitor informed him about the situation and the work being done by UNCTAD, especially as regards the preparatory work for the seventh conference, which is scheduled to be held in 1987.

CRUDE OIL PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH CEMA COUNTRIES

FL251358 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] In Havana the countries belonging to CEMA have reaffirmed their aid to Cuba in oil production by signing the final protocol of a meeting dedicated to matters related to the extraction and transport of the socialist economic bloc's crude oil.

The document was signed by representatives of Bulgaria, GDR, Hungary, USSR, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Cuba.

DAIRY PROTOCOL SIGNED AT CEMA MEETING 26 APRIL

FL261747 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] In Cienfuegos, a 5-day meeting of the CEMA dairy agreement has ended with the signing of a protocol by representatives of the nine participating countries. The exchange of experiences will contribute to the development of dairies in the countries and the strengthening of cooperation in this area. Representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, CSSR, Yugoslavia, and Cuba participated in the meeting.

MALMIERCA GREETS PRK'S HUN SEN ON BIRTHDAY

BK161437 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1146 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Phnom Pehn SPK April 16 -- On the occasion of his 35th birthday, Hun Sen, Kampuchean foreign minister, has received warmest greetings from his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca.

In his message, Malmierca said:

"Your devotion to the struggle against the genocidal Polpotists has contributed to the liberation of your heroic people, to the consolidation and the promotion of the achievements of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and to the construction of the new society.

"On this occasion, I would like to wish you new successes in your highly responsible tasks, the best of health and happiness, and at the same time to assure you of my consideration and appreciation," the message concluded.

DOMINICA

OPPOSITION'S DOUGLAS VOWS TO RETAIN LIBYAN TIES

FL251648 Bridgetown CANA in English 1606 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 25, CANA -- Dominica's opposition leader Michael Douglas has vowed to continue his party's links with Libya. A recent trip to Tripoli by Douglas brought sharp criticism from the government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles.

We want to make it very clear...that we, as Dominicans free to travel wherever we wish, will be visiting Libya from time to time, Douglas told the state-owned radio. The opposition leader and his brother Rosie, also an elected parliamentarian, have said they are seeking development aid from the oil-rich state and taking part in international conferences. But Charles insists that the Douglases are looking for money to destabilise her government.

Douglas said his party's relationship with Libya was not clandestine, and the visits were part of the ongoing principled relations that the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) had with nations including the United States, Cuba, and India. We are a non-aligned party with a non-aligned ideology, and we remain free, and we will defend our freedom to have principled and open relations with all countries regardless of their ideology, provided that those relations are mutually beneficial and morally viable, Douglas said.

Douglas said he had been to Libya three times, once as minister of finance, and sought help successfully for Dominica following the devastation by Hurricane David in 1979. He said the Charles administration is accepting money indirectly from Libya through loans obtained from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fund to which Tripoli contributes.

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER TO UK APPOINTED

FL261547 Bridgetown CANA in English 1403 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 26, CANA — Dominica has announced the appointment of Franklin Baron as its new high commissioner to the United Kingdom to succeed Arden Shillingford, who held the post from independence in 1978 until he was recalled last October. Baron is currently serving as Dominica's ambassador to the United States, but a government statement said he is expected to give up both posts. [as received] Baron is scheduled to present his credentials to Queen Elizabeth II on June 5. His successor was not named.

Since his recall, Shillingford has been serving as the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Community Development. The office in London is currently headed by an honorary consul, Ashworth Elwin. A Foreign Ministry official told CANA arrangements are being made for the establishment of a resident ambassador to the Brussels-based European Economic Commission. Former Trade Minister Charles Savarin is tipped for the Brussels appointment.

HAITI

7 KILLED AS POLICE BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION

PA262359 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2306 GMT 26 Apr 86

[By Serge Beaulieu]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 26 Apr (EFE) -- At least 7 persons were killed and several dozen wounded when the Haitian police violently broke up a demonstration staged by approximately 7,000 persons. According to witnesses, the police opened fire against the demonstrators when they were close to the Fuerte Domingo Prison, a jail from which prisoners during Jean-Claude Duvalier's regime rarely came out alive. The demonstrators had organized the march to commemorate the 23d anniversary of the Duvalierist repression of 26 April 1963, following an attempt to kidnap and kill Jean-Claude, son of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, the Haitian dictator.

Three of the dead persons were youths who, according to what a witness told EFE, were shot in the head, throat, and stomach. Three others were electrocuted when a high-tension wire was torn down during the clashes with security forces. According to unconfirmed reports, the other victim died when he was being treated at the hospital where he had been brought. Various dozens of persons had to be treated in several hospitals and clinics due to blows and the effects of tear gas.

The demonstrators, surprised by the police reaction, shouted: "This is Duvalierism without Duvalier" and "Those who kill now are the same ones who killed in the past." The demonstration started in the city's outskirts, at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, following a religious service for the 1963 victims. The 2,000 persons who gathered at the beginning increased to 7,000 as they drew close to the Fuerte Domingo. After most of the demonstrators were dispersed, small groups gathered in different points of the city's downtown area, burning automobile tires and throwing rocks at vehicles which drove through the streets. Following Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's escape to exile on 7 February, Haiti has been governed by a provisional junta led by General Henri Namphy.

Namphy Blames 'Agitators'

PA281237 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1213 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 28 Apr (REUTER) -- The head of the Haitian National Government Council has accused "a small group of agitators" of provoking the troops that killed at least seven persons on Saturday when they opened fire on a demonstration. "Do not respond to any provocation by irresponsible persons," General Henri Namphy said in a televised address to the country last night.

At least 7 persons were killed, according to reports supplied by hospital sources and several tens of persons were wounded when the troops used their weapons on some 10,000 demonstrators who tried to enter Fort Dimanche, which was used as a place of detention for political prisoners during the almost 3 years [as received] of dictatorship of the Duvalier family. Namphy said that "the agitators" will "attempt to avail themselves of any opportunity to destabilize the government," adding that they want to "interrupt the process of democratization and "establish a totalitarian regime." [quotation marks as received]. Namphy, who has been head of the civilian-military trimvirate of Haiti since former President for Life Jean-Claude Duvalier left the country on 7 February, made these statements in response to the charges by some political leaders that the action of the soldiers had tainted the credibility of the provisional government.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

MAHABIR EXPLAINS ROLE IN UN RESOLUTION

FL251911 Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 25, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago was responsible for substantial revisions to the draft to Monday's United Nations Security Council resolution condemning United States air strikes on Libya, External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir was quoted today as saying. Mahabir's comments were printed in THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, which yesterday strongly criticised Trinidad's vote supporting the resolution as a stupid and callous fiasco.

He told the paper that the original draft resolution had not included a clause condemning global terrorism. Trinidad and Tobago, said Mahabir, refused to accept a resolution which did not take all the facts into account. The final draft -- sponsored by the five nonaligned members of the council -- condemned all terrorist activities whether perpetrated by individuals, groups, or states, but made no mention of Libya except as a victim of armed attacks by the United States. The resolution was killed by vetoes by the United States, France, and Britain -- the first triple veto since the same three countries blocked an attempt to impose sanctions against South Africa in 1981.

Mahabir said that Trinidad and Tobago was having problems with its membership of the nonaligned group -- it was not stated why -- and that the country's stance at the Security Council had been condemned by the United States. Mahabir said he had been in contact with the U.S. ambassador over the issue and he was sure that nothing had been done to damage overall Trinidad-U.S. relations, as the paper had speculated.

As a small state, Trinidad and Tobago has always had a particular concern for the maintenance of international peace and security and interest in the well being, security and independence of small states, said Mahabir. As a member of the Security Council, we seek to play a constructive and moderating role and are at all times sensible of the way in which major power rivalries impinge on the international situation and they way in which events are interpreted.

BISHOP GEORGE CALLS FOR NEWS MEDIA REFORMS

FL251525 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 25, CANA -- Anglican bishop and newly-elected chairman of the Guyana Council of Churches, the Rt Rev Randolph George, has called for reforms in the national media that would permit freedom of expression across party political lines in order to promote the national unity we need to meet the present crisis. Bishop George, in his charge to the Anglican synod here, said that in more liberal times the national media could have been relied upon to report issues to the public in a way that was conducive to broad debate and independent thinking. He said he would leave it to those better qualified to assess fully the contributions the late President Forbes Burnham had made in the 30 years which were dominated by his large personality.

What he sure of, he said, is that we who are alive today must determine the kind of society we want to build for Guyanese...whether it will be an open society where people will be encouraged to use their minds to think, or a closed one where all the thinking will be done by a few. One of three presidents of the Guyana Human Rights Association, the Anglican bishop said that state-owned media (print and electronic) too often promulgated news and views that were counterproductive to the national unity, and urged that serious efforts be made for the media to be seen as truly national and function in the interest of the people. The Guyana Council of Churches and the Guyana Human Rights Association have been among civic groups here that have frequently been critical of the state-owned media which, they claim, operated in favour of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

In his address to synod, Bishop George said that at this stage, it may be asking too much; maybe it's politically naive to suggest that we abandon party politics for a period in the interest of greater national unity, which is so vital in this time of crisis, more vital than strengthening party affiliation. But, he added, the unity of the Guyana people would be greatly helped by the reforms that were needed in the national media. Both of Guyana's radio services and the lone daily newspaper are owned by the government.

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CAPUTO: RESPONSE TO TERRORISM MUST RESPECT LAWS

PY281804 Buenos Aires TIEMPO ARGENTINO in Spanish 24 Apr 86 p 9

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said yesterday that "our basic function is to make known the importance of peace, the preservation of which depends on the maintenance of the juridical order as the indispensable condition to guarantee the independence of our countries." Caputo made that statement after a meeting at Government House, during which the National Committee for the International Year of Peace Celebration was installed in order to support this UN initiative.

Referring to the events in the Gulf of Sidra, the head of San Martin Palace said that "terrorism is unacceptable to us, because the Argentine experience is fresh in our mind." He then warned: "But the response to terrorism must be in line with the law, as pointed out in the communique the Foreign Ministry issued on 15 April on the latest episode in Libya." Caputo then recalled that the communique emphasized "the need to speak out, through the action of this commission, about the importance of consolidating peace."

PANAMA'S NORIEGA COMMENTS ON CONTADORA PROSPECTS

PA262250 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Apr 86 pp 1, 15

[Text] Buenos Aires, [no date as published] Apr (EFE) -- General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander-in-chief of Panama's National Defense Forces, stated here that he is "cautiously optimistic" regarding a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. In statements made to the EFE agency in Buenos Aires, the Panamanian general noted the consensus on signing the peace act attained at the last Contadora meeting with the Support Group and five Central American foreign ministers. This document, which should be signed prior to 6 June, does not yet have the support of Nicaragua, which has put as a precondition that the United States end its military support for the contras.

In this connection, Gen Noriega stated that "last week, my country's foreign minister, Jorge Abadia Arias, received a letter of authorization from President Ronald Reagan stating that if Nicaragua signed the peace act, the United States would end its support for the contras and would resettle them elsewhere with humanitarian aid." The Panamanian military man added: "This is the light we see at the end of this dark tunnel toward which the Central American problem could be guided." Noriega admitted: "Central America is an alarm, a red light, because it is there that the spiral of violence for Latin America is located and it can increase in concentric circles, in a shock wave towards other regions of North and South America."

"It is in this context that one should consider the U.S. decision not to accept a regime in this area that does not coincide with U.S. ideological standards." The Panamanian general said that "if the peace act is not signed, and looking at it dispassionately and from a military standpoint, we can say that we are faced with a problem that is worsening and that all options are being exhausted, thus threatening a total confrontation." Noriega took part in the fourth drug control conference in Buenos Aires which concluded yesterday.

On his way back to his country, Gen Noriega made a stopover in Lima, Peru, where he was met by Secretary of the Presidency Dr Ernesto Cornejo, who took him to the Presidential Palace where Peruvian President Dr Alan Garcia awaited the arrival of the commander-in-chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces. The main topic of the brief meeting was the Peruvian president's forthcoming visit to Panama. President Alan Garcia had planned to travel to Panama in the first 2 weeks of April, but the visit was postponed. During his interview with Gen Noriega, which lasted 40 minutes, Garcia sent cordial greetings to Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the message that he may visit Panama.

ALFONSIN MEETS DEPARTING NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR

PY290317 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1637 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin granted a long audience to outgoing Nicaraguan Ambassador Ricardo Zambrana Diaz during which they exchanged views on the conflict in Central America. The diplomat went to the Casa Rosada to say goodbye to the president, because next Sunday he returns to Managua, where he will hold the post of Latin American affairs adviser to the Sandinist government. During the 45-minute audience yesterday, Zambrana Diaz reiterated his government's position on the negotiations being conducted by the Contadora Group and the Support Group, according to information provided by reliable sources from the Foreign Ministry. Alfonsin and Zambrana also exchanged views on the recent visit of the Reagan administration's special envoy, Philip Habib, to Buenos Aires.

OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY280244 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1517 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrived in the country just before noon for an official 3-day visit to Argentina, which includes meetings with President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. In statements made at Ezeiza International Airport just after his arrival, Baena Soares referred to the role of the OAS and indicated that some things have changed since last year's meeting at Cartagena de Indias, when the document containing reforms for the OAS Charter was approved. He indicated that the document contains instruments and means that will allow the organization to strengthen its political activities, to modernize and to make it more flexible regarding the interests of the hemisphere as a whole. He stated that in this respect the change may have led to a "new life" for the organization, to such an extent that the member countries have come to call the document "the spirit of Cartagena." After his brief meeting with the press, Baena Soares departed for the Plaza Hotel, where he will stay during his 3 days in Argentina.

NAVAL DELEGATES FROM 12 NATIONS ASSEMBLE

PY272204 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Apr 86 p 7

[Text] Bahia Blanca (DYN) -- For the first time since the Malvinas war, Navy representatives from twelve American countries including Argentina and the United States met to analyze ship security and communication codes, as well as joint regional operations. The unannounced meetings began here last Tuesday and the Argentine delegation was headed by Naval Aviation commander Rear-Admiral Alberto Martini.

U.S. 'UNITED FORCES-86' MILITARY MANEUVERS BEGIN

PY290320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1851 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] La Paz, 28 Apr (AFP) -- The joint military maneuvers between Bolivian and U.S. forces "United Forces-86" officially began today at the noncommissioned officers school in Cochabamba, in the central part of the country. General Raul Lopez Leyton, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, and U.S. Ambassador Edward Rowell presided over the ceremonies. It was reported on that occasion that the military maneuvers will begin in the town of Cliza (Cochabamba high plateau), where parachuting and infantry maneuvers will be conducted, with the participation of Lopez Leyton himself. Later, the military group will have the Chapare tropical region as their center of action. The largest coca plantations in the country are found in this zone. Two hundred seventy-five U.S. troops and more than 1,500 Bolivian soldiers, using a large quantity of war materiel brought in by the U.S. troops, will participate.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROVES NATIONAL BUDGET

PY221416 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] During a session last night, the legislative branch approved the national budget. Thus, after more than 20 years, the country now has this legal tool to facilitate government negotiations for international financial support aimed at achieving the economic recovery of the country. The national budget was approved after extensive negotiations and a series of problems that affected negotiations for foreign financing. The government submitted the budget bill to Congress last month. The Chamber of Deputies took almost 1 month to study the bill, and several political parties charged that the government is not allocating sufficient funds for health and education. As a result of a political agreement between the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement and the main opposition, the Nationalist Democratic Action, the budget was approved by the Chamber of Deputies. Therefore, the final approval of the budget last night did not meet any opposition in the Chamber of Deputies.

BRIEFS

NEW NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR -- La Paz, 22 Apr (AFP) -- Netherland's ambassador to Bolivia, Henry Guillaume, today presented his credentials to President Victor Paz Estenssoro at the Government Palace. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0428 GMT 23 Apr 86 PY]

GAS EXPORTS — Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Carlos Morales Landivar announced on 2 April that Bolivia will increase the volume of its gas exports to Brazil to 200 metric tons per day, worth more than $18 million. [Excerpt] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 1 PY]

POLICE OFFICIAL SAYS PCBR GETS FOREIGN FUNDING

PY290212 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] Commissioner Paulo Zimmerman, Federal Police superintendant in Bahia, stated yesterday that the PCBR (Brazilian Revolutionary Communist Party) is receiving financial assistance from other countries. Zimmermann did not reveal the names of the contributors or the amounts but stated that he has information that the dollar figures are recorded in a ledger found by Sao Paulo Federal Police in the house of former Aeronautics Sergeant Antonio Prestes de Paulo -- one of the two criminals of a group of seven people (according to the police) linked to the PCBR. Some of the people, who are also members of the Workers Party, attacked a Bank of Brazil branch office at the Canela University campus in Salvador (Bahia state) on 11 April.

National Intelligence Service (SNI) Chief General Ivan de Souze Mendes stated yesterday in Brasilia that episodes like the attack in Bahia "prove the need to maintaining a law on state defense," as the National Security Law (LSN).

ABREU SODRE BEGINS TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT

PY252214 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre left yesterday for Saudi Arabia, via Paris, beginning an official 4-day visit during which he will meet with Brazilian ambassadors to Middle East countries. Sodre will assess the policy for the region and discuss the possibilities of strengthening diplomatic and commercial relations between Brazil and those countries following the guidelines set by President Jose Sarney. On 29 April, before returning home, Sodre will visit Kuwait, where he will also hold meetings with economic authorities.

In Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, the foreign minister will preside over a ceremony dedicating the new Brazilian Embassy. He will be received by King Fahd 'ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and will meet with the ministers of defense, industry, economy, finance, and petroleum. According to Itamaraty, this is a political trip, although some contacts may be made to improve trade relations. Brazil is interested in participating in the Saudi services market. Today Sodre will spend the day in Paris, and at night he will leave for Riyadh with three advisers. The meetings with the 12 Brazilian ambassadors to countries in the region will take place on 26 and 27 April, interspersed with meetings with Saudi authorities.

The foreign minister will spend 29 April in Kuwait according to Itamaraty. The objective of this trip is reportedly similar to that of the Saudi visit. Sodre will leave Kuwait on the same day, stop over in Riyadh, and return to Brazil via Zurich and Paris on 1 May. On Monday, 21 April, Sodre, accompanying President Sarney on his visit to Vitoria, stated that diplomatic relations with Cuba will be reestablished before the 15 November elections. According to the minister, talks between the two countries will begin within a month to decide on "the level of reltaions that will be established."

2 DEAD, 5 INJURED IN 3 SANTIAGO BOMBINGS

PY290113 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] A bomb exploded in Santiago University's College of Arts causing considerable property damage and injuring one person. University authorities immediately ordered an investigation to find those responsible. The university press secretary (Leopoldo Ermiceti) has reported the following:

[Begin recording] Today at 1100 a bomb exploded on the second floor of the arts and crafts college of this school. The explosion broke more than 50 windows and caused considerable damage. Roberto Rojas, a university official, was injured and is now in the university health unit. University authorities have ordered an investigation. [end recording]

The extent of the damage has yet to be determined. Meanwhile, another attack occurred recently in Santiago. This is reporter Hugo Reyes from mobile Unit No. 2.

[Begin Reyes relay] Three women were wounded when a bomb exploded today at 1330. The explosion occurred in a public bathroom on Paseo Las Delicias Street, near Alameda Avenue between the Universidad de Chile and Moneda subway stations. Personnel from the police bomb squad are working there, while other Carabineros are directing traffic. We reiterate that a bomb exploded in the Paseo Las Delicias Street near the Alameda Avenue, between the Universidad de Chile and Moneda subway stations. The women were wounded when the bomb exploded in a bathroom on the Paseo de las Delicias. [end relay]

An urgent report from Villa Alemana says that two persons died during an explosion that occurred today at 1100 on the corner of the (Yungay) and San Eugenio Streets in the Villa Alemana district of Santiago. The bomb exploded in the home of Jose Eduardo Carvajal Arancilia, who died while he was handling the bomb. An unidentified woman, approximately 35 year old, also died. A woman named Miriam Ross Carrera was slightly wounded and arrested by the police. The following items were found in the house: two machine guns, automatic weapons, rifles, two bazookas, explosives, medicines, reading material and instructions on explosives, and military uniforms. The military court is investigating the case.

BRIEFS

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED -- The Santiago Investigations Police have seized 500 grams of cocaine worth 8 million pesos [approximately $42,500] and have arrested Jaime Ibarra Ramirez, 35, and Francisco Ramirez Rivera. Ibarra Ramirez had brought the drug from Argentina. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 86 PY]

EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

PA271750 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Apr 86 pp 1 A, 8 A

[Text] The government approved yesterday a drastic monetary control policy that contemplates a reduction of more than 160 billion pesos during the first semester this year. An inflation goal of 22 percent in 1986 is still in force. This policy will not entail the paralyzation of public investments or a lack of financing for the private sector. Quite the contrary, during the current government's final 100 days, 104 projects worth more than 156 billion pesos will be carried out, more than 27.6 billion pesos will be added to the budget, and private industry will receive 47 billion pesos in development credits.

The government reported that the combined deficit of the public sector will be reduced to 2 percent of the GNP this year. This will ensure that the operational deficit will not become a source for monetary expansion. The price policy for the agricultural and livestock sector will be oriented to reducing production costs in order to stimulate the profitability of this activity. A package of measures will be adopted, including a reduction of customs taxes for the sector's basic goods, a 75-percent reduction of port charges for unloading and handling of raw materials and inputs, and the elimination of advance deposits prior to the importation of fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural machinery.

The government hopes that the unemployment rate will be lowered through the consolidation of the economic reactiviation. Before the constitutional term is over, a report by the Chenery Mission on a long-term solution to the unemployment problem will be delivered. A report by the public expenses commission, which is studying formulas to lower state expenses, will be published in July. Regarding energy, the government has announced that oil production at Cano Limon will increase to 150,000 barrels per day in the coming months, and that at least 90,000 barrels per day of crude will be exported. The economic and social plan for the Betancur administration's last 100 days was announced at the end of the government's "summit" meeting at the Narino Palace yesterday.

Monetary Control

The document indicates that strict internal control will be exercised to prevent an excessive increase in money supply. Thus, the Banco de la Republica's funds available for domestic loans will shrink by 160.4 billion pesos during the semester, of which 30 billion pesos correspond to the public sector and 168.2 billion pesos correspond to financial agencies. [figures as published]

Part of the reduction in the financial sector will be achieved through the purchase of bonds issued by the Bank of the Republic." [quotation marks as published]

On the other hand, the private sector's net credits will increase by at least 16.9 billion pesos during the 6-month period. Regarding foreign exchange, the objective of maintaining the country's solid position will be achieved by a higher accumulation of international reserves and an adequate handling of the exchange rate. During the 6-month period, reserves will rise by $500 million. In the next months, the government expects to receive the first installment of the $515 million from the "jumbo" [preceding word in English] loan granted by private international banks.

Investment Plan

Investments that have been selected will cost 156,782.5 billion pesos. The national budget will pay 39,783.3 billion pesos of these expenditures. The rest, that is, 116,994.2 billion pesos, will be financed with resources of the respective decentralized agencies. The required budget additions total 27,610.5 billion pesos. Of this amount, 25,162.4 billion pesos (91 percent) are included in the national budget. Decentralized agencies, the Roads Fund and Civil Aeronautics in particular, will cover the rest. The plan unveiled by the government covers the following sectors:

Industry

A $47-billion peso development credit; selective protection for production, imports, and financing of capital goods; resumption of the installation of the Papelcol plant; ensuring continuity in Alcalis [not further identified] and fulfilling the commitments regarding the Cerro Matoso debt.

Agricultural Sector

Leaving almost finished the rehabilitation works and completing preparation of the land in eight districts which cover 63,700 hectares; financing the second phase of the rehabilitation of seven districts that cover 124,700 hectares, purchasing 11,000 hectares, giving title deeds for 181,000, and donating 31,500 more hectares.

Social Sector

Completing ten hospitals; distributing 355 anesthesiology machines, 297 X-ray machines, 273 operating tables, 357 sterilizing apparatuses, 169 major surgery sets, 341 ambulances, and 102 jeeps. Children in 8 municipalites of Casanare and Uraba in Antioquia are to receive anti-polio injections; 8,680,000 doses of vaccines and 1,750,000 packets of salts for oral dehydration are to be produced.

Education

Building or repairing 1,000 classrooms in 500 schools; training 9,340 teachers; furnishing laboratories for 170 schools; teaching 400,000 Colombians to read and write, and providing grammar school and high school education to adults.

Labor

Training 10,880 small businessmen and giving them lines of credit; organizing 35 small partnerships to provide maintenance to 1,805 km of roads; and expanding the services offered by the Social Security and National Social Welfare Institute.

Justice

Operating the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Law School; creating regional drug councils; and opening 20 judicial offices and 8 jails.

Indian Development

Creating 11 new reservations and cleaning up 1,000 hectares of Indian reservations. The INCORA [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute] will provide 35 areas to restructure the reservations in Cauca Department.

Mines and Hydrocarbons

The coffee sector will provide a $55-million loan; production in Cravo Norte will be increased to 150,000 barrels a day; tests of the Zulia River-Covenas oil pipeline will be concluded.

Infrastructure

The plan calls for major progress in terms of generating and supplying electricity, paving, building, and concluding major roads, building floating docks in the country, and the Medellin tunnel and subway.

In conclusion, the program details the way in which progress will be achieved in regional planning and decentralization. Support is to be given to regional corporations, the National Rehabilitation Plan, the Borders Plan, the Rebirth Plan, the Marandua Plan, tourism, housing programs, and the actions carried out by the regional governments.

MONTANARO ON INCIDENT INVOLVING FRG DIPLOMAT

PY290203 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Apr 86 p 10

[Text] Paraguayan Interior and acting Foreign Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro today said that the presence of FRG diplomat Armin Steuer at the site of certain incidents with the police, during a political rally at the residence of exiled Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] leader Domingo Laino, was " a new interference in our domestic affairs." Minister Montanaro reported to President Alfredo Stroessner on the events and police repression that occurred in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral after the Mass sponsored by Hospital de Clinicas doctors and personnel, and in front of Laino's house.

The minister said: "As everyone knows, a Mass was held at the cathedral at the request of students and nurses of the Hospital de Clinicas. After the Mass, these people gathered in front of the cathedral and tried to stage a demonstration march to the Heroes' Memorial or some other place. Since the demonstration had not been authorized, and no permission had been requested, any disorderly behavior on the streets had to be controlled and suppressed. These people refused to understand this and when they attacked the police, the officers moved to break up the demonstration. During these incidents we noticed the presence of well-known political leaders of opposition parties. There were others, not politicians or journalists, who were speaking aggressively against the government and the constituted authorities. All this was happening right in front of the cathedral."

He went on to say: "A meeting was held at the residence of an opposition leader at the corner of San Jose and Espana Streets, without any authorization, without any permit, without notifying the authorities. At the end of the meeting the participants again tried to take to the streets and stage a demonstration to the cathedral or another place nearby. The police prevented this demonstration and broke up the march. To do so they did not use means which could have inflicted physical harm, as certain media have reported, but tear gas and water cannons, because it is impossible to believe that peaceful activities can take place amid offensive words, remarks and gestures directed at the authorities."

Asked about the formal protest that the FRG Embassy will submit in view of the repressive actions directed at journalists of the FRG state television, Montanaro said: "Nothing. I have no information about any such protest, but I do know that there were people at these demonstrations claiming to be journalists or embassy officials. One can hardly demand recognition of one's diplomatic status at purely political and partisan activities because this would be a new interference with domestic affairs of the country. Embassy press and cultural attaches have no business getting involved in the domestic affairs of Paraguayan political parties." He also said that the FRG ambassador in Paraguay had not yet asked for a meeting.

DEMONSTRATION SUPPRESSED AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

PA290415 Paris AFP in Spanish 0333 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Asuncion, 28 Apr (AFP) -- Six persons were wounded and some 20 were bruised tonight during a new police repression, the seventh in a little over a week, near the School of Law and Social Sciences of the National University of Paraguay. Over 1,000 students went to school as usual today but found the university's doors were locked, while police groups slowly surrounded them and tried to disperse them.

Some university students resisted, and the policemen began to harshly punish them with their electric prods, also beating them and kicking them. A group of about 200 students again managed to group themselves and marched toward the Colorado Party Board offices to protest against Dean Juan Ramon Chaves as well as the president of the government party "for allowing the repression by closing the doors of the university department." Shortly before reaching their destination, they were violently repressed by the police, who finally managed to disperse them, according to the reporters who were at the scene of the violence. One cameraman from Teledifusora Channel 13, who was filming the disturbances, was violently attacked, wounded in the head, and kicked by some men in uniform, the eyewitnesses said. According to progovernment politicians, who are professors at the School of Law, tonight's disturbances were the most serious since the clashes with the police began.

PAPER CRITICIZES U.S. ENVOY'S 'INTERFERENCE'

PY281701 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Apr 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Unexplainable Presence"]

[Text] The demonstration staged by the doctors, nurses, and students of the Hospital de Clinicas attracted many onlookers. This was obviously caused by the wide radio coverage it received. However, in addition to the onlookers, there also were some politicians who joined in the demonstration, like hummingbirds drawn by honeysuckles, because an action of this kind is always a good pretext to appear in public and profit by the situation. The reason for the presence of both onlookers and politicians is perfectly understandable. The former wanted to see what was happening and the latter wanted to be seen, in case something happened. Among them, and very close to them, was another person whose presence is much more difficult to justify. The U.S. ambassador came to "observe" how things developed.

Since he arrived in Paraguay, Mr Taylor has disregarded all acceptable diplomatic customs, adopting the attitude of a proconsul and unacceptably overstepping his duties. He has met with all sorts of people, not to strengthen relations between the United States and Paraguay, but to strengthen the position of his interlocutors. This unacceptable meddling in Paraguayan domestic affairs does no honor to the United States, the U.S. Government, or U.S. democracy. Taking advantage of his diplomatic status and his immunity as a foreign representative, he has begun to play the destabilizing agent, like others have very recently done in other countries. And not only is he playing the destabilizing agent, but he is also playing on the side of the sworn enemies of his own country, who have not hesitated to harshly condemn the United States even when what it did was right, as in the case of the attack against Libya.

It is hard to tell the difference between Al-Qadhdhafi, the terrorist, destabilizing enemy of the United States, and Clyde Taylor, because it is not precisely peace, freedom, and democracy that Clyde Taylor has brought to us. Mr Taylor's support for some political groups that have refused to abide by the rules of democracy has placed us in a difficult situation. In fact, we have to strongly criticize an ambassador of the United States, a country that we admire and that we would like to see as an example. It is no longer possible to say that Taylor is unaware of the Paraguayan political situation or that he does not know the people with whom he has sided and whom he has given advice, or perhaps even more than mere advice.

Taylor cannot fail to realize that he has supported those who want to shorten the constitutional terms and establish a transitional government. Taylor must have read the programs and proclamations of those people, and he should already know that it is not precisely freedom that they are advocating. What has induced Ambassador Taylor to act the way he has? What is the objective of those suspicious alliances? What does Taylor believe true Paraguayans are? How long does he believe it is possible to confront the nationalist vocation of true Paraguayans? Is he perhaps seeking to provoke a reaction to incite enmity between Paraguay and the United States? Hasn't he realized that once events gain momentum, it will be difficult to separate the image of Clyde Taylor from that of the United States? Is there an intention of repeating the sad experiences of Cuba and Nicaragua, where U.S. help and covert intervention, instead of strengthening democracy, resulted in notorious failures and in pro-communist beachheads right under the nose of the United States?

Mr Taylor cannot fail to know that Paraguay is a strongly nationalist country, that Asuncion -- and for that matter the entire country -- is the world's cheapest place, and that the people enjoy peace, tranquillity, and security. Yet now, curiously enough, there have been commotions in our streets since Clyde Taylor arrived.

It seems that either Mr Taylor will have to change or he will have to be replaced. There are no other alternatives, because no genuinely Paraguayan citizen will agree to tutelage from anyone, no matter how powerful. It is our independence that is at stake, and this is sacred. Therefore, it would be good for Taylor, who sees himself as all-powerful, to carefully reflect.

ALVA CASTRO CONFIRMS PAYMENTS TO CREDITOR BANKS

PY270346 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 26 Apr (EFE) -- Prime Minister and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro today confirmed the payment of $17 million to the international creditor banks as an amortization on the overdue servicing of the foreign debt. Alva Castro also noted that a payment of $35 million was just made to the IMF as part of overdue interests. In addition, $16 million has been paid to the U.S. Government in order to receive economic and military assistance worth $50 million.

This assistance was suspended in October 1985, when the Brooke-Alexander Amendment was applied to Peru, because the payment was not made. Nevertheless, Alva Castro stated that those payments do not mean that the government has relinquished its decision -- repeatedly expressed -- to allocate just 10 percent of its export revenues to the servicing of its foreign debt of $14 billion. This decision will be maintained in order to be able to meet the national needs and reactivate the Peruvian productive apparatus, Alva Castro stressed. Alva Castro made these statements after meeting with representatives of the country's industrial sectors. He also stated that the April inflation rate will be less than in March, although he did not mention figures.

GARCIA VOWS TO CONTINUE ANTIDRUG FIGHT

PY282107 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia has held a 2-hour meeting with businessmen at the San Isidro country club, where ministers in the area of production have been meeting with more than 30 businessmen since 0800. After the meeting, the president talked to the press.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Well, the situation is complex in Tingo Maria and the Tocache area. As you know, we have dealt severe blows to the drug traffickers and we will continue the fight to eradicate the social scourge of the production and trafficking of drugs. Our country, unlike other countries, will not be dominated by international drug trafficking groups. We took drastic action against these groups and their answer was to ambush a police patrol, causing casualties among our police forces. We will not give up. These actions are their answer to our determination to eradicate drug trafficking from our country. [end recording]

NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION CALLS FOR POLITICAL REFORM

PA221733 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0310 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Panama City, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Any agreement to resolve the Nicaraguan crisis will be incomplete if it only includes a military solution and does not also guarantee a democratic process, political opposition leaders said today. Leaders of five political parties of the Nicaraguan internal opposition began a tour of the Contadora Group countries in Panama today in view of the danger that a military solution in Nicaragua could sideline internal demands. Erick Ramirez, president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, one of the parties most critical of the Sandinist regime, said: "Those of us who are inside must play an important role."

The political leaders met today with President Eric Arturo Delvalle to reiterate the peace offer that was presented on 30 January by six opposition parties, which was officially disregarded by the Sandinist government. Besides a cease-fire, that proposal includes internal policy measures such as a general amnesty, a process of national reconciliation, the abolition of laws that limit the rights of citizens, and the scheduling of a new electoral process. The groups that supported this offer insist that they are seeking "a comprehensive solution" for Nicaragua, according to statements made in a press conference in this capital by Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party. "We are not only interested in a suspension of the hostilities; we want the necessary conditions for a real democratization process in Nicaragua," Godoy added.

BANKING OFFICIAL REAFFIRMS SECRECY LAWS

PA231402 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 23 Apr 86 pp A 1, A 6

[By Mercedes K. Morris]

[Text] Panama is not resisting talks for a cooperation treaty between the U.S. and Panamanian law enforcement authorities to halt drug money laundering, despite a statement by a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration official to the contrary, Mario De Diego, General Secretary of the Panama Banking Commission, said yesterday. "It is not true that we have backed out of the treaty talks," De Diego said, "as a matter of fact, we have been waiting for a response from the U.S. to continue the negotiations," he added.

The banking industry here is in the midst of national and international scrutiny for the alleged laundering of drug money facilitated by the tight bank secrecy laws. But, De Diego stressed, precisely these laws have permitted Panama to become the financial center it is "and we will not permit the imposition of ambiguous or light requests of cooperation" which will force the lifting of bank secrecy laws." [quotation marks as published] "We will not loosen the bank secrecy laws, under any circumstances," De Diego stressed yesterday, contradicting statements in early February where he left open the possibility of investigating "proven criminal causes" through local authorities, but maintaining confidentiality.

U.S. officials appearing before a Senate Foreign Relations Committee said that more than $600 million were laundered yearly in Panamanian banks, and that the sum was increasing. De Diego said that active funds in Panama banks did not increase significantly 1984 to 1985, ignoring the official late February report issued by his own organization, Panama Banking Commission. The report held that bank deposits increased by $1.64 billion in Panama in 1985.

"We are aware of and deeply troubled by persistent rumors of corrupt official involvement of Panamanians in drug trafficking," Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs said in a REUTERS news article published yesterday. According to the article, Ray McKimmon, a Drug Enforcement Administration official, said that the U.S. had been unsuccessful in getting Panama to schedule new talks. U.S. Republican Senator, Jesse Helms used information of this sort from Panama "with political intentions and a great deal of speculation," De Diego stressed, explaining that Panama is willing to negotiate a mutual cooperation treaty if a 2-way flow of information is maintained. Panama would also "reserve rights to judge the cooperation requests" and whether proof of undeniable connections to drug traffic exists. But, De Diego maintained throughout the interview, Panama will not lift bank secrecy laws.

A recent Wall Street Journal article quoted Panamanian Bankers' Association President Paul Smith Alegre as saying that Panama is a "tropical paradise for wheelin' and dealin'." While he didn't deny the quote, Smith Alegre said that his statement had been pulled out of context. "I meant that it was deplorable that Panama had this situation, and the reporter made it sound as if I thought the situation was admirable." Smith Alegre also explained that he was referring only to the case of alleged Panamanian money-launderer Steven Samos, and not to the alleged drug traffic and money-laundering connections of local banking.

DEA, IMF Pursue Corruption

PA241916 Panama City QUIUBO in Spanish 24 Apr-1 May 86 p 5

[By Wilfi Jimenez]

[Text] The investigations about the drug trafficking and the laundering of dollars from drug trafficking carried out in Panama could take a new turn of great impact with the alleged "legal agreement" made by the DEA with Colonel Julian Melo, former secretary of the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff, who will become a "witness for the state" and reveal everything he knows about this dirty business. This fact, added to the IMF demands for Delvalle's government to purge the "corrupt elements" at the highest levels, could accelerate the cabinet and military crisis that has been mentioned since the beginning of this month. It has been said that this measure is "absolutely necessary" for the approval to refinance the foreign debt and for the "fresh funds" loans needed to face the state's lack of liquidity.

QUIUBO has learned from government sources who asked not to be identified that the negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank are "slow" because of the demands from these organizations for a "clean-up of the government" with the removal of the corrupt military officers and civilians reportedly involved with drug trafficking and money laundering. The requests from the international banking institutions are encompassed in a new package presented to Delvalle's government, which establishes the austerity measures in public expenditures and the correct handling of them, to avoid the "proven and increasing government embezzlement."

According to the mentioned sources, the international bank officials are "very much concerned" about the open statements regarding the "alleged official participation" in the drug trafficking and money laundering by the regime's officials, and also about the escalation of the violence of the Colombian and Bolivian mafia gangs against Panamanians.

"The struggle among drug trafficking gangs in Panama has been like those on the television show 'Miami Vice,' with kidnappings and dreadful shootings, and no one can understand how this could happen in a country with strong police control." A foreign press correspondent who covered the kidnappings of the relatives of the pilots Teofilo Watson and Floyd Carlton by a Colombian gang -- which was inexplicably expatriated despite evidence that the gang perpetrated serious crimes against Panamanians -- said: "The least they could do is turn a blind eye."

It seems that the dossier in the hands of the IMF regarding corruption in the official sector in Panama gives overwhelming proof and could mean even more with testimony by Col Julian Melo, who could provide new implications of armed forces involvement. It has been said that when the former colonel made his agreement with the DEA to become a "witness for the state" he provided new proof of the participation of the armed forces in the drug trafficking in exchange for his "immunity" from further charges on him. Our source gave assurances that within the FDP, the intermediate command members are on "alert" and following closely the development of the events, expressing their points of view at the meetings, parallel to the General Staff meetings.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the Senate has been meeting with Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to learn about the current events in Panama. Abrams has been asked questions about the current democratic status of Delvalle's government, the role of the military in the murder of Hugo Spadafora and the "trafficking of drugs" through out country. In these meetings, chaired by Senator Jesse Helms, DEA agents, customs officials and some other FBI "key witnesses" are also participating. It is expected that the drug trafficking problem could "burst" by the middle of May, and significant changes are expected among the high-ranking officers and civilians in the regime, in response to the new outbreak in the struggle against drug traffickers that the government of President Reagan maintains, and that now has the unrestricted support of a large part of the Panamanian governmental sector.

Esquivel Protests Allegations

PA282209 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel has reiterated that some Panamanians want to destroy the democratic transition with methods that go against the homeland. Here is an excerpt of his statements:

[Begin recording] For a long time, we have (?observed) that there is an organized group of Panamanians -- whom I cannot identify at present -- who have been putting the name of Panama to shame and hampering the country's process of democratic transition to an all-civilian government. We have seen what they did to the previous president. They opposed every change and adjustment that would have given an institutionalized orientation to the civilian government with assistance from the Defense Forces. They censured the government and charged it with fraud. They demoralized the president and organized groups to deride him wherever he went. They are continuing the same task at present. This time, however, they stand directly against the homeland by publishing reports in the newspapers saying that Panama is a drug trafficking and corruption center.

This is a crime against the homeland. Sometimes I thank God I have no power to punish the people who harm the homeland like this. In addition to this, however, these Panamanians use their influence and knowledge of English to rub shoulders with U.S. senators and journalists and prevent Panama from solving its fiscal problems and devoting efforts to social problems. [end recording]

MATUTINO CALLS FOR PUNISHMENT OF PLOTTERS

PA262153 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 26 Apr 86 p 4 A

[Editorial: "The Lieutenants' Declaration"]

[Text] At the end of an overall training exercise carried out in the 15th Training Seminar, 120 lieutenants of our Defense Forces felt that they had to report to the country the certainty they have about the existence of a plot against Panama, promoted by certain politicians who want to seize power at any expense, because to them, the importance of their goals justifies the use of any means.

According to the report, what is involved is a seditious action organized here, financed both inside and outside the country, and carried out by anti-Panamanians united in their gloomy task with people abroad who are interested in preventing Panama from making its dreams come true concerning the turnover of the canal at the end of the century. It also involves discrediting the nation's top civilian and military institutions.

The serious charge, a significant threat to the country's stability and the maintenance of peace, was backed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, and delivered to President Eric Arturo Delvalle and endorsed, in substance, by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia.

There are two sides for the people of this country to consider, each of them in extreme opposition to the other: first, we have the slanderous campaign organized by members of the anti-Panamanian plot who are offending every day, discrediting every hour, and reporting every minute, in their own way, actions which they claim were committed by the highest representatives of the civilian government of our country and ranking military officers. On the other side we have, in their convincing seriousness, documents that the government has which contain the U.S. State Department's objective, official, and final opinion, following the thorough analysis that always precedes these opinions regarding our country, on such problems as the struggle against drug trafficking, the freedom of expression, the murder of Dr Hugo Spadafora, and the resignation of Dr. Nicolas Ardito Barletta from the presidency.

There can be no doubt regarding the value of these official declarations which bear the signature of Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American Affairs. Much less so when these documents are accessible to anyone who is interested in examining and analyzing them. Contrastingly, there are the dirty lies, the low demonstration of an anti-Panamanian feeling, and the stinking slanderous statements they have been publishing in their newspapers, especially in that newspaper which, in a serious offense to this profession, boldly calls itself LA PRENSA.

In view of such irrefutable evidence, what they are doing is simply slandering and attacking the country's security. There can be no other alternative for the state organization than mercilessly applying the law to those who are directly and indirectly responsible for the reported plot, which rightfully concerned those who presented the "Declaration of the Lieutenants" to our Panama.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS MEETS WITH HABIB

PA281804 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias and Philip Habib, Reagan's special envoy for Central America, met yesterday for approximately 2 hours. At the end of the meeting journalists were unable to speak with the special U.S. ambassador. However, they obtained a statement from Oscar Arias, who said that the conversation with Habib was very cordial and one in which there was clear understanding. The future president expressed satisfaction with the U.S. envoy's understanding, and he described Habib as an excellent diplomat.

According to the president-elect, positive agreements were reached yesterday with Reagan's envoy. Arias said they discussed the Central American crisis and the positive attitude of the Central American rulers with whom Mr Habib has already spoken. Arias said that Costa Rica has expressed to the U.S. representative its decision to continue supporting the dialogue for peace instead of force. Arias said that the United States, through its envoy, has reiterated its willingness to continue to seek the best formula to resolve the Central American problem.

GUTIERREZ ON BORDER INCIDENTS, INVOKING TIAR

PA282229 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Last week the Foreign Ministry sent two letters of protest to the Nicaraguan Government for two violations of our territory in April. The EPS has attacked our country on more than 60 occasions, and Costa Rica has reacted only with letters of protest. On the likelihood of implementing the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty], Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said:

[Begin recording] The problem with the TIAR is that it demands a true, immediate, and effective aggression. Border incidents are not enough to request the implementation of the TIAR. For that reason, during the time I have been minister of foreign relations I thought that if I went before the OAS to request that the TIAR be implemented, I would not be able to convince the majority, not a simple majority but a two-thirds majority, to implement that treaty. What will happen next? Well, that will no longer be within my purview. [end recording]

BORDER POST CREATED TO PREVENT INCURSIONS

PA280443 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Apr 86 p 9

[Text] Police Director Colonel Oscar Vidal has reported that Security Minister Benjamin Piza ordered a Civil Guard advance post installed in the Las Tablillas de los Chiles area to prevent incursions by Sandinist militiamen.

Reports issued by the police patrol sent to the area to investigate Wednesday's incident, when a militia patrol was caught inside national territory, confirmed that these groups enter our territory very frequently.

According to Col Vidal, the Civil Guard has received reports from one of its members that the Sandinists frequently enter as far as the ranch of Gregorio Garcia and Ana Navarro to buy certain items, but above all to obtain information on the possible presence of rebels in the area.

Although these reports were received some weeks ago, it had not been possible for our authorities to catch the Sandinists red-handed.

It wasn't until approximately 1750 Wednesday that a patrol in the area noticed that a group of militiamen were at the house of the Garcia Navarro family. They then decided to encircle them and take them by surprise. However, at that moment one of the Sandinists saw the civil guardsmen, and he shouted to alert his companions, who fled immediately.

ARIAS' STATEMENTS ON LIBYA ATTACK CRITICIZED

PA262300 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 18 Apr 86 p 14 A

[Editorial: "Three Setbacks"]

[Text] On three occasions, from 2 February to 8 May, the president-elect has been unable to successfully answer, from the point of view of national interests, newsmen's questions or he has formulated initiatives which at the time of his taking a definite stand have been unsuitable.

His wish to establish his offices at the building that now houses the Mexican Embassy in Costa Rica and to have the attorney general of the Republic and the Ministry of Planning at the National Insurance Institute at what would reportedly be the headquarters of his general staff was only a temporary illusion. As soon as this was proposed, its inapplicability was obvious, which shows that desire prevailed over analysis or planning.

Likewise, the president-elect's criticism of President Reagan's decision to finance the anti-Sandinists was also unfortunate. If in this case Dr Oscar Arias proceeded according to his convictions, he did not measure the repercussions of his words. His tone -- "if I were Reagan" -- was contradictory -- for it meant his intervention in the internal affairs of another nation -- and the content of his words lacked the basic element: the sense of the timeliness. These opinions, expressed precisely when the U.S. Senate was discussing the request of President Reagan, whose deference to Costa Rica admits no doubts, were inopportune and rude.

Now, from exuberant Brazil, the president-elect has censured the U.S. action against Libyan terrorism. With this, once again, he is sincere but inopportune.

This sincerity should, with everything else, be examined, because for it to be a virtue and not thoughtlessness it should be adjusted to the facts and to his status as president-elect; that is a citizen who, in an eminent position, when giving an opinion on a specific international affair does not just unburden himself, but seeks to interpret the thoughts of Costa Ricans. The president cannot free himself, by his acts or his words, from his commitment.

The statements by the president-elect contrast with the moderate judgements of the president of the Republic on similar occasions, with the diaphanous opinions of Fernando Volio, or those by the president of the Assembly, all of whom have seen the subject of terrorism and response in their correct perspective: the application of the right of legitimate defense within the juridical and moral context. Dr Oscar Arias' version is more in line with Socialist International's "principles," based on their anti-U.S. vision of history and on the insistent clamor for peace and negotiation with the enemies of mankind, without any bases or awareness of the nuances involved. After all, the true feelings of the Costa Rican people are peaceful, which does not imply that they are against the right of legitimate defense or the right to exericse it, which in this case was guaranteed by Article 51 of the UN Charter, and for primary survival reasons cannot be compared to violence. Comparing Al-Qadhdhafi's violence to the violence of self-defense or to attacking terrorism is being excessively naive or misreading what is happening in the world.

These facts, which reveal a tendency, demonstrate the need for the president-elect to clearly enunciate the guidelines of his foreign policy, which, judging from his statements, differs from the style of Mr Luis Alberto Monge, who is more aware of Costa Ricans' thoughts, even if he sometimes has to give in on some plan. But he does not add his voice to choruses or styles foreign to our way of thinking.

EL SALVADOR

COURT REVIEWING KIDNAPPING SUSPECTS' CASES

PA281819 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Apr 86 pp 2, 19

[Text] Yesterday the National Police sent to the Second Military Arraigning Court the [records of] the extrajudicial proceedings instituted against three people implicated in kidnappings.

The judge, Rene Melara Baquero, received the records of the National Police against Colonel Joaquin Zacapa, Antonio Cornejo Arango, and Edgar Minado, retired national policeman, in the presence of the four special prosecutors accredited by the Attorney General's Office to sit in the case.

It was also learned from sources of the arraigning court that other military men involved in the crimes are Colonel Roberto Estaben and Major Jose Alfredo Jimenez, who, according to official sources, are under administrative arrest.

The judicial sources added that these military men have been publicly identified as being involved in the kidnappings of well-known members of Salvadoran society.

The sources said also that the mere fact that they were identified by farmer Luis Rolando Rivera Valdes and Lieutenant Rodolfo Isidro Lopez Sibrian, retired, in their depositions is sufficient reason to conduct an in-depth investigation and to bind them over to the pertinent court. The sources did not rule out the possibility that the military men may still be bound over to a pertinent court at any time.

Finally, it was reported that Rivera Valdes and Lopez Sibrian have been taken to the Western Penitentiary in Santa Ana under heavy guard.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS SUSPEND STRIKE

PA272317 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2132 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Labor leaders announced today that telecommunications workers have temporarily suspended their 2-week-old strike in order to seek a solution to the labor conflict. In a communique the Salvadoran Association of Telecommunications Workers (ASTTEL) said that the decision to suspend the strike is "a good-will gesture" to begin serious and honest negotiations to find a solution to the current labor conflict." [quotation marks as received]

The ASTTEL workers maintain that the agreement to suspend the strike "does not reflect a weakening of our just struggle; on the contrary, it reflects the workers' willingness to seek a democratic solution to the conflict, which affects all Salvadorans." The ASTTEL leaders said that if no settlement is reached in the next few days, they will stage a general nationwide strike on Tuesday.

GUATEMALA

VENCEREMOS REPORTS RECENT URNG ACTIONS

PA282004 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] We now present [words indistinct] guerrilla actions of the Guatemalan URNG. Reports from Guatemala indicate that on 19 April [words indistinct] guerrillas of the Raul Arante Front seized control of a stretch of highway between Las Flores and [name indistinct], at Km 45.

At 1500 on 20 April a guerrilla unit of the Feliciano Argueta Roger Column of the Tecum Uman Front took over [name indistinct], in Patzun municipality, Chimaltenango Department. [Words indistinct] another takeover was staged on the same day in Santa Barbara municipality. It was at Mi Puera Farm.

Reports from Guatemala indicate that at 1500 on 21 April guerrilla units of the URNG occupied La Bega Farm, in Xicacao, Suchitepequez Department. On that same day in Xicacao municipality the La Providencia, El Cafetal, and San Joaquin Farms were also taken over.

On 20 April units of the Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, harassed the military detachment posted at El Porvenir Farm, in San Pablo municipality, in San Marcos. The number of casualties sustained by the enemy was not reported.

[Words indistinct] our brothers of the URNG who struggle incessantly against the regime of poverty and oppression.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR - The Foreign Ministry has officially reported that Carlos Armando Moreira Lopez has been appointed ambassador to El Salvador. He will be sworn in next week and will leave for El Salvador immediately. [Summary] [Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Apr 86 p 9 PA]

CARRION REASSERTS FSLN LINE AT UNAG CONGRESS

PA261414 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Inaugurating the first Olof Palme UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] Congress, Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, deputy interior minister, has said that the U.S. leaders will never make us stray from the revolutionary path chosen by the people, regardless of the dollars and weapons they may give to the Somozist mercenary bands.

Let us hear a part of his speech:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...cowardly and cynical against the courageous Libyan people and his firm campaign to obtain the support of the U.S. Congress in his policy of aggression against Nicaragua, and give way to an ever greater escalation to show that U.S. imperialism will not stop in its attempts to subdue the free peoples of the earth by force. But these same imperialist aggressions also show that its military might, regardless of how big it is, is not enough to crush the indomitable will of a people who have decided to defend their independence and liberty. The U.S. dollars and the U.S. weapons have served to assassinate thousands of Nicaraguans and mutilate many others. They have prompted the destruction of the projects built through the people's sweat and sacrifice. They have served to increase the poverty and material difficulties of all Nicaraguans. They have served to spread tears and grief, but these dollars and weapons have not served and will never serve to make us stray from the revolutionary path we have chosen, to make us accept humiliating imperialist impositions, and to make us betray the people's hopes. They will never serve to make us stop being Sandinists firmly committed to our slogan: Free Fatherland or Death! [end recording]

Ortega Speaks To Congress

PA270413 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0159 GMT 27 Apr 86

["Face the People" program by President Daniel Ortega, at the first Olaf Palme UNAG Congress in Managua on 26 April -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...quickly in the air transportation, and we have great limitations in the air transportation sector in maintaining constant communication with the Special Zone No. 1.

Given that we have counterrevolutionary activities there, the Micoin [Interior Trade Ministry] and other institutions have organized large caravans of 30-40 vehicles, which leave with military protection to take some products to the mines, and to take some products from the mines to Puerto Cabezas. Other products are taken from Puerto Cabezas to the banks along the Coco River, where we have population -- the Miskito population which has returned to the Coco River.

Referring to the programs for Special Zone No. 2, which has no roads.... [corrects himself] We have a natural road, the river, but this is not enough, and we must exert ourselves using the river and the airplanes. We do not have many airplanes; in fact, we have only a few airplanes. Therefore, the transportation ministry must constantly rationalize its few resources, keeping these special zones in mind -- Special Zones Nos. 1 and 2.

Regarding Special Zone 3, well, we are advancing in the solution of the transportation problem, the highways, all the access roads, because this highway between Acoyapa and San Carlos is a strategic highway. It is necessary to maintain it open in summer and winter; we must fully complete its construction. Thus, the companeros have come out through the roads, too. The lake is a natural highway, an enormous natural highway we have there, but there are not enough transportation resources to use this natural highway. In addition, this is more slow and takes up more time.

Anyway, the Transportation Ministry has been building some boats with international cooperation; they are used to communicate with Special Zone 1, meaning San Carlos, with the Pacific zone in Nicaragua. We already know how much air transportation costs; it is quite expensive. It is important, companeros, that the ministries involved in all the transportation activities, and the supply activities, maintain a better communication with you because it has been clearly ascertained that these three special zones still lack enough communication.

How is it possible that a delegation of companeros arrived.... [changes thought] A large government delegation recently went to Special Zone 1. All the ministries sent a representative up to the Coco River; they went to Puerto Cabezas, the mines, and this involved a decided effort to achieve a goal in the zone by solving the most urgent problems. Well, the companeros arrived and no one talked about the salt problem; or else, the salt problem was mentioned but went unheard. What could have happened there? So, we have a problem; there is not enough communication, there is very little communication and we must overcome this problem.

The people have to continue with their demands because... [changes thought] you do not request, you demand, you do not request. Why? Because we are workers at the service of the peasants and the workers. Thus, the peasants and workers must demand that these workers... [changes thought] the ministers because you are the bosses here, and we are your workers. [applause]

Consequently, we will now continue with the companeros from the zone which has been most affected by the war. It is one of the zones most affected by the war -- because we have many zones affected by the war. Anyway, Special Zone 1 is one of the zones most affected by the war; this includes Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Somoto, and Madriz.

[At 0204 GMT the station ends coverage of Ortega speech, returning to regular programming. Resumption of coverage of Ortega speech begins, in progress, at 0521 GMT.]

....discussed this one day at the National Planning Council. We were discussing the economic problems and said, well, the workers, peasants, and industrial workers have been living on the same salaries. We talked about distributing the crisis, we talked about distributing the crisis [repeats himself]. What does this mean? It means that the producers must also understand that we are facing a difficult situation, and they must share the crisis. Therefore, a producer cannot expect an acceptable profit in times of crisis; he cannot even expect a barely acceptable profit. He should expect to come out more or less even; maintaining production levels represents a success in itself. He should seek to continue tilling the land and guaranteeing the minimum production of resources, because this is a success within the situation of crisis which prevails in Nicaragua.

Consequently, if we are going to act with justice, we must seek ways of distributing the effects of the crisis... [corrects himself] the negative effects which are provoked by the crisis.

This affects, above all, the workers in the city and the countryside, because the workers in the city and the countryside depend on their work, salary, and the purchasing capacity of their salary. The producers -- either on small-, medium-, or large-scale -- have the possibility of surviving on their own territory or plot of land by sowing once more so that they at least have beans for their own consumption. The workers in the city do not have this opportunity; they depend on another type of relation.

Therefore, this problem of prices and credits -- because we cannot separate one thing from the other -- has been discussed many times with the banks. You are right, you need the money to produce; however, we must base our plans on production costs which are closer to the truth, so that do not seek to obtain big profits. This must be done according to the reality which prevails in the country. So the credits supplied by the banks -- and this is part of the effort exerted by the working people, peasants, because they are the fundamental force in the country -- should help you produce; however, it must also guarantee -- and this is important and must be known by all the peasants in the country -- that the product will be sold through the official channels.

We were also discussing, at the National Planning Council, the need to link closely the credit policy to the pledge of delivering a specific quota of the production to Micoin [Ministry of Domestic Trade]. This has been done with certain products, but it is not being done as it should; we cannot say it is being done as it should. What would be the ideal thing? That the bank gives to the producer the producer gives to Micoin, and Micoin sells the product to the workers at a reasonable price. If we do not do this, Micoin will not be able to get the product; thus, the workers will have to go and buy the product on the black market. Consequently, the peasants' role would not be matching the workers' role, in either the city or the countryside.

We have workers in the city producing shoes and food which is sent to the countryside -- such as cooking oil and soap. The workers in the city have no possibility of speculating on the products like the producers do in the countryside. So everyone must adopt the appropriate attitude. You, who are peasant leaders in your respective regions and zones, must make sure everyone is aware of this so that the peasants value their credit even more and understand the situation of crisis, restrictions, and limitations. After all, the possibility of obtaining credit is not determined by the bank, although the bank could rationalize this because 10 million-15 million [no currency specified] are handled by the regional and zonal commissions.

However, all this is not the most important factor. We have an even greater problem in our economy, and this is not solved with cordobas; you know this perfectly well. The workers, as we have explained, do not want the problem solved with their salaries, because they know that no problem can be solved with their salaries. We have been exerting ourselves to bring certain products to the workers in the city and the countryside; and some peasants bring certain products at a fixed price. That is how we have been exerting ourselves, and we will continue to exert ourselves.

Of course, we also have the supply problem, because the supply problem is closely linked to the country's production capabilities, and we have limitations in the production sector. As you know, there is demand for transportation, raw materials, and maintenance of roads and highways; everything is linked with the production sector. If the government's measures do not manage to fulfill these demands, then production will be affected, production will be affected [repeats himself]. What does this mean? It means that production will be restricted, limited.

Consequently, it is important to rationalize production. We said: We have land, we have men willing to till that land, and we have men who are tilling that land. So we must exert ourselves to bring these men, first of all, first of all [repeats himself] the raw materials, spare parts, and work tools they need. We can give them the credit, or we can give them the money, but if the work tools are not brought to them, the money would be useless. They will produce nothing.

We will produce nothing with money [billetes]. Therefore, we must concentrate our efforts in that direction. When we speak of reducing the cotton production area it is only to guarantee that work tool. We gain nothing by badly sowing 150,000 manzanas when we can do it properly if we use 110,000 manzanas. But, as the companero mentioned, we must produce based on the idea of productivity. We must put forth efforts to improve productivity in all areas of production.

The food problem can be quickly resolved in the rural areas; it can be resolved by the peasants. The peasant has a piece of land to plant coffee, or he may have some cattle. On that piece of land he can plant some beans, corn; even if the land is not very productive, he can get some corn and beans out of it. He can even plant his own vegetables, and his food supply is guaranteed. We must try to get all the Nicaraguan peasants to plant the beans and corn they need for their personal use. By doing this, they will not have to depend on Micoin to supply them with beans and corn. It is a necessary effort. There is no other solution to the problem. As Companero Cabrales [Ramon Cabrales, domestic trade minister] already explained, Micoin cannot resolve that problem. That problem can only be resolved with the production of food. Micoin can supply the rice, machetes, and other work tools; Micoin can and must contribute to this, but it is up to the peasant to make an effort and produce the basic foodstuffs. He must plant those basic grains, and by doing this he resolves the problem of basic grains.

The companeros of Region 1 brought up the issue of the seventh anniversary. We have heard their views on several occasions. Their request for Region 1 to host the seventh anniversary celebrations has been welcomed by the National Directorate and the revolutionary government. Region 1 is, at this moment, the best candidate to host the seventh anniversary. Region 1 is undoubtedly a region that has put forth a great effort for the defense of the revolution. This region played a very important role in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship; the region, Esteli, was full of the fighting spirit. We are also aware of the fact that following the triumph of the revolution the enemy has made attempts to establish himself in Region 1 and that he has been defeated by the Nicaraguan people who live in Region 1. Therefore, we are considering Region 1 as one of our choices for hosting the seventh anniversary celebrations.

There are other matters we wanted to discuss. You probably discussed the issue of land at length this morning with Companero Jaime Wheelock. As we have already said, we want every peasant in Nicaragua to have his piece of land to till. Our agrarian reform policy is to get land for the peasants, and this land must come from somewhere. Our first choice is to affect state-owned lands; idle land is also affected, whether these are privately or state-owned lands. We have found land that was idle; cases in which a company did not have enough manpower to work the land and is only working part of the land. We have also found small, medium, and large producers who have idle or abandoned lands. There are many cases of people who live in the city and leave their land idle and abandoned. This idle land is the first to be affected. For what purpose? To be distributed among those peasants who do want to work the land.

Second on the list to be affected are some productive enterprises. These are enterprises that are producing, but there are times when it becomes necessary to affect these enterprises, privately or state-owned, in order to resolve a social problem. In these cases, the affected people must be understanding. We have experienced several explosive situations, and we were forced to affect an efficient producer, or owner, in order to resolve a social problem -- 500 or 600 peasants, 600 families pressuring to get the land, a historic pressure for the land. We find such cases mostly on the Pacific coast. There is a heavy demand for land on the Pacific coast and in some northern areas of the country.

The aggression and the problem of displaced people has also created problems as far as availability of land is concerned. Why? You all know, especially the companeros who live in Special Zone 3 and Region 6, that some areas have become areas for military confrontation. Those areas have been abandoned as far as production is concerned. There were peasants in those areas who had 50 or 100 manzanas. We once met in Matagalpa with producers who had 300 or 500 manzanas in the Jinotega area. They were forced to abandon their land because the counterrevolutionaries would raid, burn their property, kill their cattle, and even threaten them and force them to abandon their property. Well, we had to find a solution to this problem. And these were not one or two peasants, but hundreds of peasant families. When social problems such as these arise, someone has to be affected; the state, idle land, and even privately or state owned productive land.

So long as we continue to experience this situation of aggression, we will also continue to experience tension brought on by the war for land. There are historic tensions. For many years, the peasants have been struggling for land. These historic tensions must be resolved. There are also tensions for land caused by the war. If we did not have a war we would not have those great pressures, the pressures that the peasant population in the northern area of Nicaragua is experiencing. This problem is also experienced in Region 5 and in Special Zone 3. The people are moving into certain areas while much land remains idle.

When we defeat the aggression, we recover those lands. A companero here explained how they were able to pick 47,000 quintals of coffee in an area where in the past harvest no coffee was picked. We are recovering land from the enemy and this is land for production.

It is necessary that you continue to insist on the fact that the revolution wants to ensure land ownership for the small and medium producer. The large producer already has land. Our policy has never been aimed at ending land ownership; the revolution is not interested in ending land ownership. You have very clear examples of this.

We implemented a policy to recover state-owned land. To do this it was necessary to recover the lands owned by Somoza and the Somozists. These lands had to be turned into big enterprises. However, it was never our policy to affect idle or productive land with the idea of expanding state-owned property. No, that is not our policy. You have seen how the land that has been affected has been distributed among peasants who wish to establish a cooperative, peasants who need the land. Then we see that a farm is worked by tens of peasant families.

We are making more and more peasants land owners. They receive their land, their title, and their rifle to defend the land. These peasants face their problems with the banks, Proagro [National Agricultural and Livestock Products Enterprise], and with Micoin, in order to get their supplies to be able to work the land efficiently. The tendency of the revolution is not to expand state-owned property.

Quite the contrary, many state-owned enterprises have also been distributed among the peasants. Much state-owned land has been given to the peasants.

You have emphasized the problem of cattle raising. You have the right. This cattle raising problem has been brought up in all the rural areas, productive areas. What is happening? We have not been able to adjust, develop, or establish an appropriate policy. We have not been lucky in this yet. This problem has also been raised by UNAG when the organization had joined our debates on the cattle raising policy. The truth is that our cattle raising sector is a depressed sector. Depressed as far as its possibilities for development. Consumption increases despite the price of meat, consumption continues to increase.

We also face the problem of the clandestine slaughter. There is too much clandestine slaughter going on. Therefore, we will bring this issue before the National Planning Council and we are going to promote a more direct participation on the part of UNAG. Perhaps not in a document or statement, but through an assembly with the cattle sector, the Agricultural Development Ministry, the bank, and the president.

At this assembly we will discuss a cattle raising policy and develop a strategy. The cattle sector has also enjoyed the dollar incentive plan, and this dollar incentive plan that has represented an increase in production in other areas has not proven positive in the case of cattle raising. The dollar incentive plan has been very effective in other areas. Therefore, we must carefully study the problem of the cattle sector. It is also true that when the revolution triumphed we reached a cattle sector that was already experiencing problems. We received a herd that had been looted and later experienced problems. We received a herd that had been looted and later experienced an expansion of meat consumption. This consumption had its toll on our cattle sector.

The war itself imposes a rate of consumption that we cannot control. Our fighters in the mountains buy cattle to feed themselves. We cannot even count those cattle because eating is a necessity. It is a difficult problem to resolve but it has to be discussed at length, and carefully, with the direct participation of our UNAG companeros. UNAG is involved in production and cattle raising.

I wish to remind the Region 3 companeros of the Ticuantepe commitment. I wish to remind you of what Companero Emilio said about the roof. When we visited Ticuantepe we met with the producers in that region. They brought up the problem they are having with the gases from the volcano; gases that damaged their homes and roofs. In this case we must think in the terms of relocation for these companeros. We told them that we would increase their quota, however, we would not be able to give them the full quota they were asking for the reasons that Companero Baltodano [Emilio Baltodano, Nicaraguan industry minister] already explained. However, we did tell them that their quota would be increased.

Why did we give the residents of Ticuantepe a positive answer? Because Ticuantepe is a rural production area. Rural production areas surround Managua. These areas have roads because they are located around Managua, but these areas experience the same problems experienced by the rural areas in Matagalpa and Jinotega. These areas all have problems with roads, water, and electricity; all the same problems. For this reason, we have implemented a policy and have stated that rural production is a priority. These areas will be the first to receive what they need so they will be able to guarantee their production and their minimum standard of living. We have placed their needs above those of the people who live in the cities. There have been times when we have promised a zinc or [word indistinct] roof to some area in Managua when we receive word from Region 6 stating that they need this product.

In those cases the product will be sent to Region 6. Why? Because Region 6 is one of our priorities. It is true that the Pacific area of the country is facing some problems, however, it is not as bad as the problems faced by those other areas that also find themselves under the direct pressure of a war. This situation is experienced in Special Zone 1, Region 2, Region 6, and others.

Therefore, the rural areas are a priority. The rural areas come first. The agricultural productive sectors come first. If we must choose between giving tires, supplies, spare parts, and screws to the people who live in the cities or sending this to the rural areas, then it will go to the rural areas. Since our supply is limited, we cannot cover all the needs of the rural area at the same time. Therefore, we can only offer on a planned basis; we have to decide whether the product goes to Region 6, Region 1, or Special Zone 1. Despite this, we find ourselves having big supply problems.

However, it is necessary to understand that we are facing the supply problem in a rational manner. What other solution to this problem can there be? There are some who complain and criticize because in Nicaragua we use a ration card, because certain products are rationed. They do not think this is correct. What other alternative do we have? The one other countries have adopted? Put everything on the free market? If you can afford it you can buy it, but if you are poor you just cannot buy it.

What we are doing is protecting the working class, we are protecting the peasant. We are guaranteeing them a product they need at a price established by Micoin or by Proagro. This is what we are doing. We offer a product at a certain price and it is included in a list. You may not be able to get all you want but you will get what we can offer. At least you are sure that you can get certain products. Can there be another solution to this problem? Perhaps putting everything on the free market. What would happen if Proagro or Micoin did not establish a price on these products? Three or four people would horde the products and the rest of the peasant population could go to the devil.

This was the situation in the past. In the past did they ever worry about the peasants having their products? Did they ever worry to make sure that the peasants got what they needed? Only the people who had the money could buy the products. The peasants did not even have their own land. Or did you? How many of you lost your land? What? There was no assurance that the land was yours. Did the banks take your land? How did a bank act in the past? What would happen if you did not meet your bank payments? What would happen to your land?

Today you still complain about the banks but if you do not make your bank payments, the bank will not take your land. It will not take your land. [applause] However, we must make an effort to meet our bank payments. The same money you use to pay is the same money the bank lends. In the past there were no guarantees, the peasant had no guarantees. He was simply ousted from his land. Or a Somozist colonel would come along, like your land and just take it. And that was it. Many peasants lost their land in this manner.

We have also heard a suggestion to declare a Day of the Peasant. This day would be in honor of a peasant leader, Bernardino Diaz. Would this by UNAG Day or the Day of the Peasant? [people's answer indistinct] That would be on 3 September? Well, Companero Daniel Nunez will have to present this before the Constituent National Assembly. Companero Daniel Nunez will have to present this before the Constituent National Assembly so that 3 September may be declared as the official Day of the Peasant in honor of Bernardino Diaz Ochoa.

We have heard the greetings, the statements of the foreign guests who were invited to this UNAG congress. We thank them for their words and we thank them, above all, for their presence in our country. They have come from afar: Canada, Czechoslovakia, Philippines -- I think they are also here -- Puerto Rico, Ialy, Sweden, and Mexico. In other words, many foreign representatives have participated in this UNAG congress. This proves once more that communication prevails among our peoples, and communication prevails among the peasants. In other words, the peasants and workers have a common language, the language of friendship, work, and peace. That is why this UNAG congress has been attended by so many representatives from the Nicaraguan people's brother countries.

This congress, your congress, is ending at a time when our country continues to be a victim of aggression by the U.S. Government. And I will try to respond to the question the companero from Puerto Rico asked me. The fact that Mr Habib, President Reagan's delegate, is touring the Latin American countries and saying that they are in favor of peace is nothing new. The policy of the Reagan administration in regard to the conflict they have created here in Central America by trying to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution is a policy with two faces, but one single content.

It is two-faced because, on the one hand, they want to pretend that they favor peace. However, in reality, they do not advocate peace. They are enemies of peace. They are enemies of the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, of the efforts of the Latin American countries, of Nicaragua's efforts. They advocate war. They advocate the destruction of the Nicaraguan revolution. They want to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

And while we have been talking here about work and production, without forgetting war, the war continues to strike at Nicaragua's territory. In other words, fighting is going on at this moment in many places in our territory, above all, in the frontier areas [words indistinct] fighting.

Our country lives under the threat of the U.S. military power. Every day the U.S. President devotes an aggressive message to Nicaragua. It is as if Nicaragua were a power truly threatening U.S. security. The U.S. President is hurling attacks at Nicaragua every day. What for? To prepare international public opinion. To prepare it for what? For international public opinion to accept any absurd action he [decides] to take against Nicaragua. In other words, we are threatened by the U.S. Government.

It is not true that the U.S. Government is already prepared to achieve peace with Nicaragua. That is, there is no such evidence at this moment. There is a larger presence of U.S. soldiers on the Honduran territory bordering with Nicaragua, and of U.S. military advisers on the Honduran territory bordering with Nicaragua, supporting the mercenary forces which are being defeated by the Nicaraguan people.

However, this entails dangers -- the danger that the current war at the border areas will become a war between U.S. troops and Nicaraguan soldiers, Nicaraguan fighters. That is why we say that the United States is becoming more and more directly involved in the military actions against Nicaragua. We have been defeating the contras and the contras have no possibility of winning, and since the United States does not want to accept peace, it has begun to take the place of the contras.

They are doing this contrary to world opinion because nobody supports this action by the United States. Nobody supports it in the world. Even in the United States the U.S. people do not support President Reagan's policy against Nicaragua.

Therefore, this is the reality. There is no possibility of achieving peace at this moment. We have concrete proposals to achieve peace (?with) the United States. We have expressed our willingness to continue discussing the Contadora peace proposal. However, the truth is that the United States is doing nothing in favor of peace. President Reagan, the U.S. Government is doing nothing in favor of peace. So, what is left for us to do under the circumstances? (?Well), to go on defending our country.

And how do we defend the country? The country is defended with weapons in the hands of the people. However, one can defend the country also by producing, because we cannot separate the military defense of the revolution from production. In other words, defense is an overall process that includes fighting the mercenary forces, the people's preparedness to confront and defeat a Yankee invasion if it takes place, and the people's capacity to produce amid such difficulties. This is the policy of defense. Therefore, the policy on defense is integral and you are a vital part of the policy of defense.

This is so because the peasants are in the production sector. The most sensitive issue in our country is the production of foodstuffs -- the production of basic grains, coffee, cotton, and cattle. The peasants are in this. So, we will respond to the Puerto Rican companero by saying that Mr Habib's messages is nothing new; that Mr Reagan has at other times sent other messengers who have gone around saying the same thing -- that they are in favor of peace. However, in practice, the United States is not showing that it advocates peace. [Words indistinct] many times. They want to subdue the Nicaraguan revolution. They want to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. Their strategy is: either they surrender or we will destroy them.

However, we will not surrender and they will not be able to destroy us. This is not a propaganda line or anything extraordinary on our part. Here, the people do not want to surrender because they are defending a just position. A people cannot be destroyed, either, when they are defending a just position. [applause, shouts]

Well, we have no choice but to continue working. The companeros peasants organized in the UNAG must continue to till the land, to sow and to harvest, and to defend the land. This is the best way to defend the revolution. We must defend the land with our weapons, too. [indistinct voice in the background] The companero is right, we do not have enough weapons. We would like to give rifles to everyone who demands a rifle, but we do not have so many rifles, we do not have so many rifles [repeats himself]. [indistinct voice in the background] [Ortega and the crowd laugh] However, we must also use our own inventiveness and abilities for defense.

We must continue to organize ourselves, and you must make do with the rifles available right now. At certain times, the rifles were taken from the cooperatives and given to recently-organized battalions. Of course, this affects the companeros in the cooperatives. We have even seen cases where cooperatives were attacked by the contras after their rifles were taken away. We do not want to see these situations repeated, so we are exerting ourselves to send rifles to the cooperatives from which rifles were taken for other battalions, so that they may have their own rifles again.

Consequently, we must continue to send rifles to all the peasants. It is like the pledge concerning the land. However, we cannot do everything at once. Anyway, we will send them whenever possible. We would like to have a peaceful situation, instead of having to talk about sending rifles, but we must have rifles to defend our peace because the perspectives indicate there will be more aggression from the U.S. Government against the Nicaraguan people.

Well, companeros, we met tonight from 1900 to 0015 [laughter] this is 5 hours, right? Five hours and 15 minutes. [crowd shouts: We continue to support the FSLN!] Five hours and 15 minutes with only one blackout, only one blackout. [crowd laughs] Therefore, this is record time. Only one blackout. Tomorrow morning we have the closure, where we will hear the summary of this congress. We will also hear the messages sent by international organizations, and the speech by Companero Victor Tirado. [indistinct voice in the background] Well, yes; as a matter of fact, this is a new day. It will be held this morning, in a few hours.

We hope to meet with you in your respective regions and zones, during the upcoming "Face the People" programs, because we maintain the guideline of holding meetings and "Face the People" programs with the producers in the countryside. You know we continue to maintain this contact given the importance of the producers in the countryside, peasants, workers, all the people, and the companeros in the ATC [Association of Agricultural Workers].

In other words, we will meet again, companeros, to continue discussing the problems that were brought to our attention tonight. We have not answered some of the questions, but we have taken note of all the proposals. Whenever we meet with you again, in your respective regions and zones, remind us which proposals were presented tonight and have not been solved by that time. Thank you. [applause]

Tirado Closing Speech

PA272154 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1633 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Speech by Commander Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez, closing the First Olof Palme UNAG Peasant Congress in Managua -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, National Directorate members, companero delegates, special guests: We want to take advantage of this First Congress of the UNAG, which bears the name of that great friend of Nicaragua, to present our revolutionary greetings to all delegates meeting here who support the organizational efforts of small-, medium-, and large-sized producers, to carry out this event even amid the aggression we are experiencing as a result of the Reagan administration's policy. The most reactionary circles are trying to stop the struggle of the peoples to achieve peace, progress, and economic development.

This alliance, today as yesterday, is reflected at the military level. Yesterday our struggle against Somozism and imperialism was rooted in the actions in Bocay, Pancasan, and (Cinca). Today our struggle is against the same enemies: imperialism, Somozism, and the new Somozism personified by CIA mercenaries.

This great alliance of farmers, agricultural workers, and urban laborers is also reflected in their firm determination to increase production in the city and the countryside, as well as the productivity, efficiency, and output in work and coordinated relations with labor unions, such as the ATC, the CST [Sandinist Central Organization of Workers], and all labor organizations willing to help defeat imperialist aggression.

The current stage of agrarian reform must be implemented in an organized manner by preventing injustices. The objective is not to eliminate private property, but to redistribute land ownership in a more just way. In the end, the objective is to bring the peasant out of his (?destitute) poverty, because UNAG was created mainly to try to eradicate poverty in the countryside, and to achieve that we must redistribute land to those who do not have any.

UNAG came into existence in a spontaneous and casual way. It is the product of a historic struggle to achieve the unity of laborers and peasants. They face a common enemy, namely U.S. imperialism and dominant classes. Sandino himself contributed this practical element, which began taking shape in Bocay in the form of a great alliance of laborers and peasants. This alliance was noticeable in the ties between people such as Rigoberto Cruz and Faustino Ruiz, top leaders of these two great sectors of production.

From this perspective, this is the origin of UNAG. It is rooted in the peasant movements, carried out even amid the cruel repression of that time, because when the movement lost direction following defeats at the military level, the peasant movement never abandoned the revolutionary struggle.

[Words indistinct] in the past few years, has been dedicated to fighting against terrorism. Reagan now is not only violating all international laws but is also disrespective of the meaning of words and actions, because he calls the brand of terrorism he applies right to self-defense.

President Reagan, in his attempt to justify his forceful policy aimed at the entire world and especially at the Third World, national liberation movements, and peoples fighting for their independence, sovereignty, and their right to self-determination, is creating a new language. Using the excuse of fighting terrorism, Reagan is testing the imperial will through aggression, blackmail, pressure, and threats. Nicaragua and Libya were the first victims of Reagan's terrorism. He is now directing his battery against Iran and Syria. Tomorrow, he will add other countries to his list. The most important thing is that he chooses as his targets nonaligned Third World countries, recently liberated from imperialism, who are fighting to maintain their autonomy.

UNAG cannot overlook this warmongering and terrorist policy of the U.S. President, because that crusade against terrorism, President Reagan's foreign policy implemented under the pretext of fighting terrorism is, in reality, a crusade favoring neocolonialism. In his desperate race to impose his hegemony over the entire world, including the USSR, Reagan is bringing the world to the brink of war. This is the most dangerous aspect of his false anti-terrorist campaign.

If the majority on this planet does not unite to stop Reagan's warmongering attitude, he can, as did Hitler in 1936, drag the world into a new world war which, as we know, would have catastrophic consequences for humanity. Peace has not been so seriously threatened since World War II as now. Nicaragua will continue to fight against the beginning of a new nuclear war and will continue to make efforts to end the war imposed on us by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

This great Sandinist movement and popular revolution is our country's contribution to world peace. It is the continuation of our efforts to achieve world peace in keeping with Sandino's doctrine. We do not limit this to our latitudes, because the peace doctrine, the doctrine of Sandino, has gone beyond our limits. It joined the doctrines of Bolivar, Marti, and Morazan to establish a single Latin American doctrine against colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialism and for peace and independence. The FSLN has made this doctrine its own.

We are sure that once we achieve peace, Nicaragua will become a power, not a military power, but an economic power. We will be capable of producing a large volume of basic grains to satisfy consumption levels, not only within our country, but also in the Central American area. We urge other Central American countries to take up this challenge. Companero peasants, leaders of your respective communities: once again, we congratulate you for the success of this congress. On behalf of the FSLN, we reiterate our call to strengthen our fatherland's defense and work in the trenches.

To achieve that end, we must increase our level of efficiency and increase productivity in several crops, in the private sector as in the people's property. Rural and urban workers must increase their productivity, because in order to overcome its backwardness, its economic backwardness, and defeat aggression, a country likes ours must work harder. This is the priority element in the national effort that involves thousands of combatants and youths within the Patriotic Military Service, the Military Reserves Service, and Sandinist People's Militias. They allow us to participate in this event. That is the result of our work, the example, the inheritance that we will bequeath to future generations that will make us feel that we have fulfilled our duty.

That is how we built up patriotism, our new fatherland, a new nation by creating a great national unity. That is how the Sandinist People's revolution of small, medium, and large-size producers, of students, intellectuals, heroic women, laborers and peasants will continue to world peace. Free fatherland, [crowd answers: or death!]

EPS CLAIMS 1,000 REBEL CASUALTIES IN 4 MONTHS

PA282219 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Managua, 27 Apr (REUTER) -- The EPS said today that it had caused some 1,000 casualties, dead and injured, among the U.S.-backed rebels in clashes since the beginning of this year. The main spokeswoman for the Army, Captain Rosa Pasos, told REUTER that the Sandinists suffered only 300 casualties in the same period. She said that during this last month small groups of insurgents had been entering Nicaragua from neighboring Honduras, and at this time there are up to 1,800 of the so-called contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Pasos said that most of the clashes take place in the northern departments of Jinotega and Matagalpa. Last week the press was invited to visit a military hospital in the strife-torn northern zone. The hospital was reportedly 65 percent full. Many of the patients said that they had been injured in recent clashes.

Pasos said that the EPS was inflicting hard blows on the rebels and cited an attack last month on their camps in Honduras, where 350 insurgents were killed, according to the Defense Ministry.

Pasos added: "We are better prepared, better organized than last year, and we are striking back at the mercenaries with harder blows."

OPPOSITION LEADERS VIEW CONTADORA PROSPECTS

PA290219 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0118 GMT 29 Apr 86

[By Alba Infante]

[Text] Caracas, 28 Arp (EFE) -- Political opponents to the Sandinist Government told EFE today that there are possibilities that Nicaragua will sign the Contadora peace document, even though signing the document would not guarantee a solution to the internal conflict of that Central American nation. Representatives of six opposition political parties, all of them describing themselves as democratic parties and opposed to Sandinism, said today in Caracas that they believe there is a real possibility of a dialogue with the Managua government.

These statements were made to EFE by Erick Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party, and Ignacio Miranda, member of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, organizations in opposition to the Sandinist government within Nicaragua.

Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party; Mario Rappaccioli, president of the Conservative Party; Luis Rivas Leiva, president of the Social Democratic Party; and Enrique Sotelo Borgen, president of the Democratic Conservative Party are the other members of the delegation of Nicaraguan politicians currently visiting Venezuela.

The Central American politicians are visiting Venezuela as part of a tour that has taken them to Panama and Colombia and will conclude in Mexico, the four countries of the Contadora Group.

Ramirez said there is a possibility that the Managua government led by Daniel Ortega will agree in the end to sign the Contadora peace document on 6 June. "The Sandinists are following a stand of making surprise moves, and therefore we think there are possibilities that they will sign the document and appear to adopt a conciliatory stand after they have been following a negative stand," Ramirez said.

Such a decision would make the Sandinists appear "before the eyes of the world" as if they were really supporting a process of conciliation. But according to Ramirez, signing the peace document is not really the important thing, but rather "the consequences following the implementation of the document."

One of the aspects emphasized by the Nicaraguan opposition -- and that is the main goal of their visit to the Contadora nations -- is to call attention to the fact the peace document points out only general positions on the need for beginning a process of understanding within Nicaragua.

"We urge Contadora to include in the document a provision whereby, in order for a conciliation process to begin in Nicaragua there must first be an immediate dialogue with the political parties," Ramirez pointed out. This stand is shared by Miranda, who, as a member of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, states that the political groups opposing the Sandinist regime "have been left out of the Nicaragua-Contadora dialogue."

Thus, the political opponents of the current Nicaraguan Government believe that the Contadora document regulates only the relations of that country with its Central American neighbors, while the internal conflict situation is not taken into consideration.

Miranda thinks the solution to the Nicaraguan crisis must first pass through an understanding between the current government and the opposition democratic forces.

"Nicaragua's problem cannot be solved without taking into consideration the political parties within the country," said Medina [as received], who pointed out that signing the peace document without the Sandinists' first reaching an actual commitment with the opponents within the country will serve only to consolidate a Marxist-Leninist regime. Even though the Sandinists have not officially defined themselves before the world as a Marxist regime, the Nicaraguan political leaders agreed that this is the obvious trend of the Managua government.

Therefore, the civilian organizations believe the signing of the peace document "will prevent a terrible killing in our country" if conditioned to a commitment by the Sandinists to reach a true dialogue with the political opposition. In order to reach a true pacification of the country, the six parties are proposing that the Sandinists immediately suspend all hostilities between the progovernment forces and the anti-Sandinists. The issuance of a general amnesty and the signing of an agreement among the political parties in order to carry out new elections, which are considered a "very critical" issue, are some of the main points mentioned by the opposition.

Thus, there are two pictures of the Nicaraguan problem according to the visiting politicians: The internal situation and the Sandinists' relations with their Central American neighbors, and an aspect that has been repeatedly challenged by Contadora and not mentioned by the consulted politicians: foreign powers' interference in the regional situation.

PSC LEADER URGES ORTEGA TO 'TURN OVER POWER'

PA271843 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 27 Apr 86

[By Denis Garcia Salinas]

[Text] Managua, 27 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Social Christian Party [PSC] has challenged President Daniel Ortega to convoke elections and turn over power in order to "stop the war." PSC Vice President Azucena Ferrey has sent a letter to Ortega in which she also refers to the "level of discontent" which prevails and the need for the leader to "put himself in the people's place."

The PSC leader criticized Ortega's administration and demands that the leader turn over, "in a civilized way, the helm of the ship which he can no longer control." "You (Ortega) know that this is the only way to stop the war," she explains in the letter, which she decided to write given her "strong feelings and thoughts about the level of guilt which I share" concerning the national crisis.

Azucena Ferrey states in her letter to Commander Ortega that "there are specific ways to achieve peace; there are roads which have not been followed due to a lack of willingness and to stubbornness." In her challenge to the head of state, the PSC vice president also urges Ortega to fulfill the peace pledge with the Contadora Group, which has convoked the Central American countries to a meeting on 6 June.

The political leader urges Daniel Ortega to "accept and implement the contents of the document signed by six political parties" for establishing "a regime of authentic democracy." On 30 January the PSC, the Independent Liberal Party, the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, the Constitutional Liberal Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Central American Unionist Party signed a document in which they demand, among other things, new elections, a national dialogue, and a cease-fire. "We want to live in times of peace. We need these times of peace to rebuild what has been destroyed, to stabilize what has been destabilized, and to amend mistakes; in this way we will overcome the current crisis," she points out. The opposition leader asserts that this will be possible only if President Ortega "heeds" the people, returns "their civil and citizen rights, frees the news media, and suspends censure."

"For you to properly address the people you (the president) must first learn to win the respect of those people, and this implies having the humility to recognize that we are not irreplaceable, that we are not eternal," she indicated. "Let the people exercise their rights to self-determination and sovereignty and choose their own destiny for the first time; let them create their own option," she asserted.

She urges Daniel Ortega to "exert himself and seek a much more direct contact with the people, so that he may ascertain the level of discontent which prevails." Azucena Ferrey also accuses "officials in his party" of "defending their ideological and personal interests" and "encouraging the crisis and anguish which afflict us." Ferrey urges Ortega to "convince" his "party comrades" to abandon "their concept of uniqueness and the arrogance which fills them, making them feel important and powerful."

"Your patriotism and that of your party comrades must submit to the people's will," the leader says in her letter. She also asserts that these officials "do not deserve to live on the sacrifices and deprivation which the taxpayers are withstanding"; therefore she demands that Ortega ask them to "resign." The leader describes these people as "parasites and hypocrites."

In her letter, Ferrey also urges Ortega to walk the streets, "without bodyguards," and endure "with the people" the lengthy lines at the supermarkets, hospitals, and bus stops. She invites him to give up "prefabricated" programs like "Face the People," no longer heed "flattery," and find a way to visit prisons so that he may ascertain the real truth.

DESERTER SAYS FDN INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

PA260345 Paris AFP in Spanish 0018 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (AFP) -- An FDN deserter today accused leaders of that organization of drug trafficking, smuggling, stealing, U.S. economic aid, and eliminating in Honduras former members of that organization. In statements to the Honduran radio station La Voz de Honduras, Leonardo Antonio Zeledon Rodriguez, former member of the FDN and identified as one of its founders in 1980, reported that on 21 January there was an attempt on his life ordered by anti-Sandinist leader Enrique Bermudez, a former member of the National Guard during Somoza's dictatorship. Zeledon said that the attempt on his left, which left him disabled, was ordered by the FDN because he denounced the participation of anti-Sandinist leaders in drug trafficking, the mishandling of the resources provided by the U.S. Government, and the execution of former members of the organization.

DEBT RESCHEDULING DISCUSSED WITH PARIS CLUB

FL281828 Bridgetown CANA in English 1808 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Havana, April 28, CANA-REUTER -- Cuba and its Western creditors are still far apart in their ideas on how to refinance the country's 3.5 billion dollar foreign debt this year at the end of a first round of talks in Havana, diplomatic sources said today.

Last week, a delegation from the Paris Club held four days of talks with a Cuban team led by Central Bank President Hector Rodriguez Llompart on refinancing the 1986 maturities on Cuba's government-to-government debt. The Paris Club is a group of ten major industrialized countries that try to coordinate monetary and fiscal policies to create a more stable world economic system.

Shortly before the Club's mission left on Saturday, Cuba presented it with a set of refinancing proposals and a series of economic projections for 1986 and 1987, the sources said. The 50-page document contained several alternative proposals for refinancing the Cuban debt this year, which the sources described as tough and containing elements which were unacceptable to the Paris Club. These unacceptable elements included a proposal to refinance the debt which has already been rescheduled in earlier agreements, they added. The distance between the position of Cuba and the Paris Club is still very great, one Western diplomat said.

The sources admitted that Cuba faces a difficult balance of payments situation this year since its income from hard currency exports is likely to decline several hundred million dollars from the 1985 level of 1.3 billion. The sharp fall in world oil prices since last November has slashed Cuba's income from re-exports of Soviet crude -- its main source of foreign currency -- while a poor 1885-86 sugar harvest has left the country with little for export to the West after meeting its commitments to the Soviet Union and other members of the communist trading group Comecon. At the same time, the sources noted, cuban imports from the West have already been cut to the bone -- 1.3 billion in 1981. Any further reduction would seriously affect the country's programme of investment in new export-oriented industries, they added.

Cuba is therefore trying to refinance the maximum amount possible of debt this year to contain its balance of payments deficit, the sources said, although they did not mention a specific amount.

A further round of rescheduling talks with the Paris Club is due to take place in Paris within 90 days, the sources said. One source mentioned the possibility of formal negotiations starting as early as mid-May. Cuba is also expected to open negotiations soon on rescheduling its debt to commercial banks, which accounts for half its overall 3.5 billion dollar foreign debt.

FLAVIO BRAVO MEETS WITH FRG DELEGATION

PA282232 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban People's Government National Assembly, has met in Havana with a delegation of the FRG Parliament headed by Deputy Ludger Volmer, a member of the presidency of the Green Party. In line with the interests of the guests, views were exchanged regarding the Central American situation and international financial policy. The FRG delegation will visit historic and economic centers of the country.

CLASHES REPORTED DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

PA290231 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 28 Apr (AFP) -- Two persons were killed and 21 injured as a result of incidents and clashes during electoral campaign demonstrations held all over the country this past weekend, according to a report published today by the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA.

The fatalities were identified as Miguel Hernandez Ferraras, 19, a member of the conservative Christian Social Revolutionary Party (PRSC), the main opposition party, and Domingo Antonio Guzman, 57, of the ruling social democrat Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD).

With 19 days left before the general elections, the electoral campaign intensified during the weekend with numerous marches and rallies.

Despite repeated pleas by the authorities and prominent political figures and leaders, new violent clashes were reported. Although these have been isolated, the number of fatalities increased to five, and hundreds have been injured in shooting and rock-throwing incidents during the current campaign.

In what appears to be a calculated position, the police did not confirm or deny the incidents or victims, ULTIMA HORA reported.

WESSIN Y WESSIN JOINS BALAGUER CAMPAIGN

FL282313 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 86 pp 1, 17

[By Manuel Silvestre]

[Excerpt] Yesterday retired General Elias Wessin y Wessin joined Dr Joaquin Balaguer's presidential campaign and urged the Democratic Quisqueyan party membership to vote for the Reformist-Social Christian party and its leader.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CANADIAN FIRM

FL261156 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] In Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, scores of striking workers demonstrated yesterday against a Canadian mining firm in the northern town of Bonao, 1 day after a bomb exploded in a market wounding at least two people. The striking workers are protesting the lay-off of 168 employees, including the union's leadership. They are also demanding higher salaries, but officials for the Falconbridge Mining Company say the firm cannot meet the workers demands because it lost $10.6 million last year.

BARBADOS

BARBADOS, TRINIDAD PRIME MINISTERS HOLD TALKS

FL282232 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 28 Apr 86

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 28, CANA -- Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago today agreed to set up a joint team of officials to come up with ways of boosting declining bilateral trade, officials said.

The decision was taken during the first round of discussions between Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John and his Trinidadian counterpart George Chambers, who began a two-day official visit here this morning.

Trinidad's External Affairs Minister Errol Mahabir told reporters after the two-hour meeting at government headquarters that the teams role will be to examine further those problems which exist, to examine extra-regional imports, and to determine which areas ... there can be free trade.

Trade between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) states has been on the decline over the last few years, with Barbados recording a near 50 per cent drop in exports last year which manufacturers here have blamed on an import licensing system and foreign exchange control regime (ECO) in Port-of-Spain.

...We have indicated quite clearly that we can't at the present time terminate our exchange control regime but within that parameter that we will be able to identify areas of free trade and remove any impediments, Mahabir said.

What we would like to have is a regime which is quite clear as to what items are going to be allowed to trade freely. Once we know that, then our manufacturers can operate with far greater certainty, Barbados Foreign Affairs Minister Nigel Barrow said. That sort of thing will be worked out after (the) officials sit down and go into the details.

Another key agenda item has to do with bilateral air services. Mahabir said this will come up tomorrow when the second and final round of talks take place.

Other matters, including the question of a new Caricom trade payments mechanism and Haiti, were also discussed briefly this morning. The trade payments system will go before Caricom finance ministers at a forthcoming meeting and the Haitian situation will be discussed by Caricom foreign ministers at a meeting in Belize in June.

The discussions...so far have been quite satisfactory, Mahabir said. There has been frank discussion and further details will be available at the end of the talks, Barrow said.

Chambers and St John have scheduled a joint news conference for tomorrow evening, prior to Chambers departure for home. Both leaders will officiate this afternoon at the formal opening of the Arawak cement plant, a joint venture between the two countries.

REPORTS ON ACP MINISTERS MEETING 21-23 APR

Foreign Minister Opens Meeting

FL220104 Bridgetown CANA in English 2337 GMT 21 Apr 86

[By Rendon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 21, CANA -- The 40th Council of Ministers meeting of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) grouping opened here today, with a call from Barbados Foreign Minister Nigel Barrow for concrete decisive action by the 66 developing nations towards deepening intra-ACP cooperation.

Boosting intra-ACP cooperation, sugar exports to the European Economic Community, and proposals calling for some restructuring within the ACP and its Brussels-based Secretariat are among major agenda items for the conference, taking place ahead of a joint ACP-EEC ministerial meeting Thursday.

Going before the ACP Ministerial Council will be a draft plan of action, drawn up by the committee of ambassadors as a result of a special session of the council in Zimbabwe last October, identifying trade, trade financing, air and maritime transport as key areas for initial intra-ACP cooperation.

Conference sources said better sugar prices for ACP sugar exports to Europe, additional staff for the ACP Secretariat, and a proposal to increase the frequency of African states holding the presidency of the ACP council would go before the council.

Economic relations between the EEC and the ACP fall under the Lome Convention, the third of which comes into force on May 1.

Barrow, declaring open the meeting, said the time had come for ACP states to implement provisions of various declarations urging increased cooperation. What we need now are not more declarations or plans, but concrete decisive action, he said.

The sources said they only expected the council to take note of the draft action programme at this meeting and pass it back to the ambassadors for further consideration in Brussels. But the sources said the idea emerging was that the best approach towards deepening cooperation, generally regarded to have lagged behind, should first be at the regional level, for example among Pacific member states. Where it makes sense, we should then spread it further, they told CANA.

The question of better sugar prices will tomorrow occupy the attention of sugar ministers who will then report to the council for adopting a position for Thursdays joint meeting with the EEC. Sources said today ACP delegates were firm that the EEC buyers should grant ACP exporters the same 1.3 per cent price increase as European producers for the current delivery year ending in June. The offer to the ACP was a 1.15 per cent increase. Negotiations are deadlocked and the sources said they were hoping for some breakthrough at this meeting.

Sources said the proposal to restructure the Secretariat centered on the need to improve its shaky financial position and for the appointment of a deputy secretary-general as well as more technical staff to better equip ACP nations to benefit under the third Lome Accord with the EEC.

ACP council president, Foreign Minister of the Solomon Islands Paul Tovua emphasised this point when he spoke at the opening session of the meeting.

On May 1, the Lome III Convention comes into force. We need to have all our institutions, including our own Secretariat, in ship shape to ensure that we are ready and able to fully exploit the convention, he said.

Foreign Minister Barrow urged the council to be attentive not to compromise the integrity of any of the three ACP regions or the oneness of the ACP group in the review of the structure of the organisation.

The reference was apparently targetted at an African-backed proposal that would see African states dominating the presidency of the ACP council, at present rotated evenly among the three regions. Under the proposed change, the following system of rotation is envisaged -- Africa; Africa; Caribbean; Africa, Africa; Pacific.

The councils first decision after the formal opening was to approve an application from Haiti for observer status within the ACP, to lay the basis for eventual full membership.

Haiti Admitted as Observer

FL221512 Bridgetown CANA in English 1340 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 22, CANA -- Haiti, the poorest nation of the Western Hemisphere, was last night admitted as an observer within the 66-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, the ACP Secretary-General Edwin Carrington said.

The decision, taken by the ACP Council of Ministers meeting here, was in response to an application by the Caribbean nation which wants to eventually become a full member of the Third World organisation.

This is a unique step for the ACP group, Carrington told reporters after the council adjourned. It is a first reaction to the constitutional changes that have taken place in Haiti by the ACP group extending a willing, brotherly hand to assist Haiti to regain its position among the democratic nations of the world.

Haiti is going through a transitional period to democracy, following the ouster in February of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Secretariat's Finances Scrutinized

FL231440 Bridgetown CANA in English 1122 GMT 23 Apr 86

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 23, CANA -- Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group meeting here last night urged defaulting member states to pay up about U.S. 2 million dollars in arrears in a move to help ease a severe cash flow problem at the Brussels-based ACP Secretariat, officials said.

ACP Secretary-General Edwin Carrington, briefing reporters at the end of day two of the three-day Council of Ministers meeting, said the Secretariat's shaky financial position came under scrutiny, as the ministers studied ways of strengthening the ACP's organisational base to take maximum advantage of the third Lome trade and aid accord with the European Community. Lome III comes into force on May 1 and top ACP officials have stressed the importance of having the ACP organisation in shipshape to take full advantage of the pact.

Carrington said the council was expected today to decide on proposals from the committee of ambassadors for increasing the Secretariat's staff from 80 to 109 persons, and possible options for increasing the annual U.S. 3 million dollar budget, including a possible increase in contributions by member states. You cannot enlarge (and).. strengthen the Secretariat which we need to do if we are going to effectively implement Lome III without some increase, he said. The restructuring (of the Secretariat) implies a larger budget for the Secretariat and this poses a dilemma. If you cannot finance the existing Secretariat on the existing budget, how do you restructure and finance the Secretariat on a larger budget?

The major item before the council yesterday was a draft U.S. 140 million dollar plan of action for boosting cooperation among the 66 ACP states in the areas of trade, shipping, and air transport.

Somalian Ambassador Mohamed Omar Giama, chairman of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors, said the ministers took note of the programme and passed it back to the committee for further refinement. It will be submitted again at the next council meeting.

The council also looked at the major problem of drought and desertification in Africa, and agreed to raise it with European Community ministers at a joint meeting opening here tomorrow, Giama said.

When the council resumes meeting this morning, the ministers are expected to discuss the agenda for tomorrow's joint meeting with the EEC and ACP'S preparations for the Lome III Accord, the officials said.

Finance Problem Unresolved

FL251940 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 25, CANA -- The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Council of Ministers met in unscheduled session here today but failed to reach firm decisions on the key issue of restructuring the financially-troubled ACP Secretariat, conference sources said.

The sources said discussion during the morning session focussed on settling an estimated U.S. 2 million dollars in arrears owed to the 66-nation organisation by member states. This issue is seen as central to the whole restructuring plan.

Delegates, who were due to end their meeting yesterday, felt generally it should be left up to the defaulters to decide when to pay.

Expressing disappointment, one source told CANA: The conference should have said (that) within (a specified) time, arrears should be paid or arrangements should be made so that the governments and the Secretariat should get together and arrive at a timetable within which the arrears should be cleared. But it was left open as if governments recognised the importance of paying their arrears and so on. I thought the decision should have been more positive than it turned out.

At the start of the meeting Monday, ACP officials stressed the importance of arriving at firm decisions here to strengthen the brussels-based Secretariat so as to enable member states to maximise trade and other benefits under their new Lome III accord with the European Community.

The ministerial meeting was adjourned and the sources said they expected delegates to get together again before leaving here.

Another major agenda item to be dealt with is a review of the Georgetown Agreement which set up the ACP 10 years ago. Central to move is an African-backed proposal for changes in how the ACP presidency is rotated.

Meanwhile, the joint EC-ACP council of ministers was back in session, with the sugar dispute between the two sides expected to dominate discussion.

Compromise on EEC Sugar Prices

FL261446 Bridgetown CANA in English 1349 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 26, CANA -- The European Community (EEC) and the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group last night reached a compromise agreement, ending a protracted dispute on new prices for ACP sugar exports for 1985-86, delegates said.

The late night consensus came after ACP producers, except Mauritius, decided under protest to accept the EEC'S revised offer of a 1.33 per cent increase for April to June, and 1.15 per cent for the other nine months.

Barbados Agriculture Minister Dr Richard Cheltenham told reporters that as part of the agreement, ACP exporters would start negotiations shortly with the EEC refiners on an amendment to their commercial contract in a move to obtain compensation for the shortfall in earnings due to the two-tiered increase.

We are not sure that we will get full compensation, but Tate and Lyle has accepted, speaking on behalf of both the French refiners and themselves, to offer us a compensation package which would go a large way towards making up for the shortfall, he said.

One Mauritius delegate said they would first have to study the implications of the agreement before making a decision. Mauritius is the largest ACP exporter.

The sugar issue was the most contentious on the agenda for a two-day joint ACP/EEC council of ministers meeting which ended here last night.

Cheltenham said a pre-fixing arrangement on shipments to Britain would be applied to the refiners, in the hope of allowing AGP exporters to get the highest price within any two week delivery period.

The move is in an apparent attempt to allow the ACP to obtain highest possible earnings in view of a week-to-week variation in the value of the monetary units applicable to sugar exports to Britain, owing to the fact that Britain does not belong to the European Monetary system.

This pre-fixing is...going to be applied to the refiners so that in advance of every shipment arriving in the U.S., they will be able to tell us what price we are going to get in the hope that we will get, over a short period of two weeks, the highest price within any delivery period of two weeks, Cheltenham said.

ACP producers, who sell sugar to the EEC at prices above the world market level, had accused the EEC of discrimination by their original offer of 1.15 per cent as against 1.33 per cent to European producers over the same 12 month period.

EEC president, W. Van Eekelen, had said the percentage difference stemmed from a decision to give a higher increase to white-sugar producers than those selling raw sugar. The decision has been scrapped and henceforth both types of sugar will get equal treatment.

ACP Secretary-General Edwin Carrington told reporters he understood the EEC was considering granting interest on the unpaid 1.15 per cent covering from last July to March. He added: There is apparently a further mechanism to be calculated which is at this moment not quantifiable: The sharing of certain benefits which might accrue to the refiners on the basis of the pre-fixation mechanism should that bring any benefits.

ACP producers sell 1.3 million tonnes of sugar to the EEC a year. Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts-Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, are the Carribbean nations in the ACP sugar bloc.

Cheltenham said negotiations on increases for the 1986-87 year, beginning in July will start shortly, mostly likely next month. He said no positions had been adopted by the ACP here with regard to these talks.

Meanwhile, President of the ACP Council of Ministers Paul Tovua told reporters they had failed to come up with firm decisions on the key issues at their separate meeting, including the restructuring of the financially-strapped ACP secretariat in Brussels, regarded as the number one priority.

Tovua, the foreign minister of the Solomon Islands, said the matter, which hinges on the collection of U.S. 2 million dollars in arrears from defaulting member states, was referred back to the Committee of Ambassadors until the next council meeting. He said there was no discussion on an African-backed proposal to change the system of rotation of the ACP presidency because there wasn't enough time. The move, which would require amendment of the 10-year-old Georgetown Agreement that set up the 66-nation grouping, has also been deferred until the next council meeting.

GRENADA

BLAIZE DENIES PLANS TO STEP DOWN DUE TO ILL HEALTH

FL282325 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, April 28, CANA -- Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has described as nonsensical reports that he is considering stepping down soon because of ill health.

Blaize, 67, spoke about the reports in a weekend radio broadcast hours before he left the island to return to the United States for medical attention to a prostate gland disorder.

The London-based publication, CARIBBEAN INSIGHT, recently carried a report alleging that Blaize would be stepping down on medical grounds and that there would be problems within his party over a successor.

He told Grenadians not to succumb to such reports, adding that the people spreading them should look for another subject because the members of my party who are ministers of government all know that it is together we make it, and anybody who tries to break it would not only break themselves but would be getting out in the wilderness. He said that whatever stresses the party might go through it has enough resilience, strength and flesh to withstand that nonsensical thing they are talking about.

ECUADOR

EDUCATION MINISTER'S DEATH 'OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED'

PA281857 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Quito, 28 Apr (AFP) -- Ecuadoran Education Minister Camilo Gallegos, one of his sons, and four other people died in an airplane accident last Friday. This was officially confirmed after a rescue team arrived at the site of the accident in Mount Ruminahui, southeast of Quito.

SURINAME

SURINAME, PRC SIGN COOPERATION DOCUMENT

FL252143 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Suriname and the People's Republic of China have yesterday signed a document for further cooperation. Mr Herrenberg of foreign affairs and his Chinese counterpart Wu Xueqian totally evaluated the relations between the two countries before signing the document. The two foreign ministers also discussed the international political and economic situation.

Yesterday the Suriname delegation also held talks with the department of foreign economic relations and trade about new forms of economic and financial cooperation.